FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-134
Thursday
11 July 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-134 *11 July 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Views Clinton-Netanyahu News Conference *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Voices 'Regret' at Netanyahu's U.S. Remarks *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Jerusalem 'Eternal Capital of Palestine' *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni—Jerusalem 'Red Line That Cannot Be Crossed' *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: PA's Abu-Zayidah 'Disappointed' With Netanyahu Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: PLO's al-Agha—Netanyahu Remarks 'Contained Nothing New' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: PA's 'Asfur Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel To Resume Talks *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 9 Jul]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Said Ready To Begin 'Serious' Dialogue With PA *[AL-NAHAR 9 Jul]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak Leaves for Turkey on 1-Day Visit *[MENA]* 4
Egypt: Musa Views Relationship Between Peace, Security *[MENA]* 4
Egypt: Al-Sharif Comments on Cabinet Meeting *[MENA]* 4
Egypt: Commentary on Clinton-Netanyahu News Conference, Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 4

Morocco

Morocco: 'Arafat Arrives in Rabat, Sends 'Urgent' Message to Russia *[Jericho VOP]* 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: Opposition Movement Reports Recent Clashes, Casualties *[Voice of Bahrain WWW]* 6

Kuwait

Kuwait: Deputy Prime Minister Denies Splits in Government *[KUNA]* 6
Kuwait: British Pilot Arrested Over Apostate Protest *[London THE TIMES 11 Jul]* 7

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Saudi-Syrian Joint Committee Final Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 7
Saudi Arabia: Shaykh Sa'd—Saudis, Kuwaitis Finalize Border Agreement *[Riyadh Radio]* 8
Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari Predicts Terrorist Attacks on Civilian Targets *[Copenhagen INFORMATION 10 Jul]* 10

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Sees U.S. Presence as 'Heresy' *[London CDLR MONITOR 3 Jul]* 11

IRAQ

Iraq: UN Committee Completes Final Draft on Imports, Exports List *[INA]* 14
Iraq: Country Said Goaded To Join Turkey-Israel Pact *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 5 Jul]* 14
Iraq: Intelligence Officers Said Among Dead in Baghdad Blast *[London Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Jul]* 16

ISRAEL

Israel: Sources—Clinton 'Does Not Accept' Netanyahu Peace Approach *[Jerusalem TV]* 18
Israel: Bank Governor—No Plans To Cut U.S. Aid 'at This Stage' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Netanyahu—Aid Cut Only After Another 2 Years 'at Least' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Israel: Further Netanyahu Comments on Clinton Meeting, U.S. Aid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Israel: Netanyahu Meets Arab Representatives in Washington *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Israel: Netanyahu Seen as Unyielding in Address to Congress *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Jul]* 19
Israel: Netanyahu To Meet Mubarak in Egypt 'Next Week' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Jul]* 20
Israel: Ben-Elisar on Selection as Ambassador to U.S. *[MA'ARIV 10 Jul]* 21
Israel: Amb. Indyk Said To 'Profit' From Ben-Elisar's Appointment *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jul]* 22
Israel: Likud Knesset Faction Harshly Criticizes Economic Program *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Israel: Netanyahu Rules IDF Brass Outside 'Political Negotiations' *[HA'ARETZ 11 Jul]* 23
Israel: IDF Disperses Palestinian Workers Trying To Crash Roadblock *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Israel: IDF Confirms Civilians Hit by SLA Fire in Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 10 Jul]* 24
Israel: Former Minister Aloni Criticizes Netanyahu Peace Policies *[MENA]* 24

LEBANON

Lebanon: Hizballah Proposes Prisoner Swap; Arad Fate Unknown *[VOL]* 26
Lebanon: Hizballah Releases 2 SLA Prisoners, Ready To Swap Others *[MENA]* 26
Lebanon: Hizballah Official on Netanyahu's Proposals, Resistance *[MENA]* 26

SYRIA

Syria: Paper Rejects Charges, Accuses Mosad of al-Khubar Explosion *[SANA]* 28
Syria: Radio Reports Netanyahu's U.S. Congress Speech *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Syria: Netanyahu's 'Interpretation' of Peace Principles Censured *[Damascus Radio]* 29
Syria: Papers Discuss Netanyahu's U.S. Visit, Statements *[Damascus Radio]* 29
Syria: Al-Shar'—Netanyahu Policy Will 'Close Door Completely' *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Jul]* 30
Syria: Paper Says Netanyahu's Statements Reflect 'Arrogance' *[SANA]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Urges Taleban Not To Insist on Fighting *[Kabul Radio]* 32
Afghanistan: Government Forces Attack Taleban Positions in Kabul Area *[Message of Freedom]* 32

India

India: Delhi Concerned Over M-11 Missile Deployment by Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 32
India: Experts—Resist Pressures on CTBT for National Security *[THE HINDU 10 Jul]* 33
India: Article Defends Country's Refusal To Sign CTBT Proposal *[HINDUSTAN 6 Jul]* 33
India: Members of Lok Sabha Criticize Petroleum Price Hike *[Delhi Radio]* 34
India: BJP Says Rao Court Summons Unprecedented *[Delhi Radio]* 35

India: Congress To File Appeal Against Court Summons for Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 35

Iran

Iran: Larijani on U.S. Policy, Iranian Press *[AKHBAR 6 Jul]* 35
Iran: Daily Notes Lack of Allies' Trust in U.S. *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Jul]* 39
Iran: Official Criticizes Netanyahu's 'Baseless Charges' *[IRNA]* 40
Iran: OIC Summit Urged After Netanyahu's 'Declaration of War' *[IRNA]* 40
Iran: Reasons for Dharan, Riyadh Explosions Analyzed *[SALAM 27 Jun]* 41
Iran: Paper Views Saudi Inability To Ensure Safety of U.S. Troops *[KEYHAN 6 Jul]* 42
Iran: Paper Says 'Iran Builds Up Network of Terror Schools' *[London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 7 Jul]* 43
Iran: Minister on Accord With PRC To Exploit Songon Copper Mines *[IRNA]* 44
Iran: Israeli Influence Seen Behind Turkish Cross-Border Attack *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Jul]* 44
Iran: Turkish Official Holds News Conference on Tehran Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Iran: Radio Comments on Turkish Official's Visit to Tehran *[Tehran International]* 45
Iran: Iraqi Kurd Seeks Iran's Help in Struggle Between Factions *[IRNA]* 46
Iran: Radio Commentary Views Formation of New Afghan Government *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Iran: Velayati Denies Tehran Called For Improved Egyptian Ties *[IRNA]* 47
Iran: Kerman's Economic Cooperation With Armenia To Expand *[IRNA]* 47
Iran: Velayati Holds Talks With Moldovan Industries Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Iran: Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Laos *[IRNA]* 47
Iran: Head of Majles Planning Committee on Economic Problems *[AKHBAR 4 Jul]* 48
Iran: Majles Appoints Deputies To Supervise Committees, Councils *[Tehran TV]* 49
Iran: Official Details Potential of New Railroad *[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 29 Jun]* 49
Iran: Pros, Cons of Central Asian Rail Noted *[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY 15 Jun]* 50
Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses OIC Communications Ministers Meeting *[Tehran TV]* 51
Iran: International Telecommunications Channels To Double by 1999 *[IRNA]* 52
Iran: Daily Says OIC States Can Form Economic Bloc *[IRNA]* 52
Iran: Commentary Views Central Bank's Performance *[KHORASAN 11 Jun]* 53
Iran: Television Programs Criticized *[KAR VA KARGAR 2 Apr]* 53

Pakistan

Pakistan: Indian Foreign Minister Interviewed on Possible Dialogue *[THE MUSLIM 9 Jul]* 54
Pakistan: Defense Committee Cabinet Discusses Kashmir, India *[THE NEWS 10 Jul]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Arab League Chief Views Clinton-Netanyahu News Conference

NC1007210896 Cairo MENA in English 1814 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 10—(MENA)—The Israelis should comprehend the Arabs' insistence on Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories, Golan and south Lebanon as well as their [as received] to realise comprehensive and balanced peace, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said.

This came in a joint news conference with Henry Siegman who is in charge of Middle East Affairs of the U.S. Foreign Relations Council.

If Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sees that he can go ahead with the Mideast Peace process while he maintains occupying part of Arab territories, it is a wrong perception, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added at the end of the U.S. Arab dialogue.

At the press conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid termed as not encouraging the news conference held by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Netanyahu, saying that this is the least to say.

Commenting on statements made by Netanyahu in an American t.v. programme in which he said that Israeli withdrawal from Golan is linked to the change of the Syrian regime, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that these statements constitute a serious threat and a flagrant interference in internal affairs of the Syrian people.

Netanyahu is playing with fire and he will burn himself first before anyone else, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added.

The Arabs are committed to international resolutions as well as land for peace principle Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said, noting that negotiations can lead to security arrangements.

Netanyahu's vision for realising peace within the context of occupation is a wrong conception, he added.

The American official said that holding this U.S.-Arab dialogue was a great achievement. He said that the U.S. had been used to an old and negative view of the Arab League, which according to him had always been considered as an organization that adopts hardline stands regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The aim of the dialogue was to combine efforts to reach an understanding of all problems and to see how these problems were being examined in each of the Arab and U.S. communities, he said.

Approving 'Abd-al-Majid's announcement that the dialogue was not only limited to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Siegman said that discussions were open to all aspects of Arab-American relations.

He accentuated the importance of propelling the Mideast peace process saying that it was a main topic of discussion.

He said that differences in view between the Arab and American sides regarding the future of the peace march had appeared during discussions.

Asserting Arabs' rejection of Netanyahu's peace-for-peace notion, 'Abd-al-Majid's announcement accentuated Arab countries' support for the Syrian and Lebanese stances, stressing that Arabs will never cede one inch of their occupied lands.

'Abd-al-Majid swiped at Netanyahu's peace belief based on occupying part of the Arab lands on the pretext of protecting the Israeli security asserting that Israeli security can be maintained by several other means including sending peace-keepers, or establishing demilitarized zones or another means accepted by sides concerned.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the American side who participated in the Arab-American dialogue is resolved on rushing forward the peace process, singling out the important role played by the United States in helping continue the peace drive.

'Abd-al-Majid said the American-Arab dialogue that took place between the League and the American Foreign Affairs Council has enjoyed great appreciation on the part of political circles.

He expressed hope that Washington would understand the reality and history of the Arab Nation which is not an "aggressive" one, adding that "we are certain that we would attain our rights in full."

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Voices 'Regret' at Netanyahu's U.S. Remarks

JN1107063196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat expressed deep regret at the Israeli prime minister's attempts to tarnish the Palestinian stand on occupied Jerusalem.

Marwan Kanafani, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] does not want to divide Jerusalem, establish a wall in the city, or prevent members of the three monotheistic faiths from reaching it. He said that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

throughout history, the Palestinian people ensured the freedom of worship and opened holy places for all peoples. The PNA speaks of a Palestinian city where we have rights, hopes, and aspirations, and where we can establish a Palestinian capital. It does not speak of erecting a wall and preventing people from entering the city.

Kanafani described Netayanhu's statements and remarks at the U.S. Congress as a form of begging and an attempt to seek an ally to help him face contradictions that exist in his government.

On the Palestinian participation in the OAU summit, Kanafani said that the president participated in discussions and in drafting final resolutions. He regarded the OAU summit as an important indication of the world support for the Palestinian people, stressing the need to emphasize Palestinian weight on the world level by Palestinian appearance on world forums.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Jerusalem 'Eternal Capital of Palestine'

JN1107071696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to reporters after returning to the homeland a short while ago, President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine. The president visited the Cameroon where he attended the OAU summit. He also met with King Hassan II in Rabat.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni—Jerusalem 'Red Line That Cannot Be Crossed'

JN1007144696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, member of the PLO Executive Committee and the official in charge of the Jerusalem file, asserted that the holy city is a red line that cannot be crossed. He said all political forces and national establishments should make all possible efforts and step up their activities to confront the policy of siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities against the occupied city of Jerusalem and to counter practices that aim at emptying the city of its residents.

Faysal al-Husayni made the above remarks during a seminar organized by the Ministry of Information at the conference hall in al-Birah city today under the title "Israel's Suppressive Measures Against City of Jerusalem."

Palestinian Affairs: PA's Abu-Zayidah 'Disappointed' With Netanyahu Remarks

TA1107074696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] official Sufyan Abu-Zayidah said that he is disappointed by Netanyahu's statments in Washington. He asserted that the Israeli prime minister refrained from addressing the issues of Hebron, the settlements, and the continuation of the negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

Abu-Zayidah told Qol Yisra'el that the real problem was not when Netanyahu would meet 'Arafat but rather the need to resume the negotiations on the permanent arrangement and for Israel to meet its obligations as stipulated by the Oslo Accords.

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's al-Agha—Netanyahu Remarks 'Contained Nothing New'

TA1007141796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Dr. Zakariya al-Agha by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Agha] As far as we are concerned, Netanyahu did not address relations and negotiations with the Palestinian side adequately and satisfactorily. We consider his speech to be an ordinary speech that contained nothing new.

[Abu-Zayid] What about his meeting with Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat? Netanyahu announced that he will meet with Palestinian officials should the need arise.

[Al-Agha] The fact is that the issue is not one of temperament by the Israeli prime minister so that he himself may decide when to meet and under what conditions. Negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides — whether on the remaining issues of the interim stage, or on the final stage which began on 4 May — have been held up. All these matters are in abeyance. There should be a clear decision. I believe that the first step should be a meeting between the Israeli prime minister and President Yasir 'Arafat in order to launch the negotiating process and draw up a timetable for the negotiations. If the situation remains as it is, and we hear statements from here and there and such talk as I will meet when the need arises — that is not the way to proceed in the political process. Consequently, this will raise major questions about the Israeli Government's position and will confirm all the doubts about the Israeli Government's stance and current policies.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya, therefore, how do you envisage the coming stage? Will negotiations with the Israeli side begin, and what steps will the PA take?

[Al-Agha] The fact is that now the responsibility falls on the cosponsors, particularly the United States. We know that elections are ahead and that there are complications in the U.S. elections, but beyond the election conditions, America is a sponsoring country and has commitments toward the political process. It must apply pressure on the Israeli Government to continue the peace process. Moreover, although the positions of the EU countries are good, there must be a mechanism to turn these positions into pressure on the Israeli Government to begin the negotiations. Furthermore, we in the PLO and the PA are in constant contact with all these parties, as well as with the Arab parties in order to coordinate and follow up the Israeli Government's trends and positions. I believe that the Arab summit conference set up a follow-up committee of foreign ministers to decide how to proceed in the peace process in terms of Arab inclinations.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the PLO Executive Committee, thank you very much.

Palestinian Affairs: PA's 'Asfur Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel To Resume Talks

TA1007143496 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 9 Jul 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — Palestinian negotiator Hasan 'Asfur has called on the United States, as the sponsor of the peace process, to compel the Israeli Government to adhere to the implementation of the peace agreements signed with the Palestinian Authority [PA].

In a statement to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, 'Asfur said that the United States must pressure Israel to resume the final status talks with the aim of establishing stability and a just and lasting peace. He explained that America must stop its biased support of Israel and realize that backing away from the peace process will not be beneficial to the region, especially to the Israeli people. This is something that will endanger the entire peace process and contravenes the goal for which the people of the region are striving.

'Asfur, who is the director of the negotiations affairs department, affirmed that the Palestinians chose peace out of the total conviction that this is a strategy and that it is the only way to reach mutual security and solve the issues by peaceful means. He stressed that the Palestinian people have not reached the state of capitulation to conditions of the peace process that do not comply with their national interests. He said that this era has ended.

On an expected meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu after the latter's return from Washington, 'Asfur said that President 'Arafat is not seeking ceremonial meetings. He noted that such a meeting is essential for advancing the peace process and that it is inevitable.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Said Ready To Begin 'Serious' Dialogue With PA

TA1007164596 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Jul 96 p 8

[Report by Tahir al-Nunu]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — A senior delegation from the Islamic National Path Movement [INPM] left Gaza yesterday for Egypt, Sudan, and other Arab countries.

The delegation is carrying an oral message from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference, related to mediation between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas.

'Ali Abu-Fawzi, member of the INPM political committee, explained that the message of Hamas says that it is ready to begin a serious and fruitful dialogue in a bid to draw up a comprehensive national program in support of the process of construction and understanding among the sons of the one people.

Abu-Fawzi added that during its visit to the Arab countries, the INPM delegation will discuss the latest developments in the arena, the Israeli Government's program, and its negative effects on the region. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak Leaves for Turkey on 1-Day Visit

NC1107065996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0628 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Ankara on a one-day visit at the invitation of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. President Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Zakariyah 'Azmi, head of the President's Office; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Egyptian Ambassador to Turkey Mahdi Fathallah.

Egypt: Musa Views Relationship Between Peace, Security

NC1007203096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that peace means security and there is no discrepancy between them.

To a question by newsmen on whether there is a paradox between peace and security, Musa said that peace is the base for security because security alone cannot establish a durable relationship. He stressed that the basis of a stable relationship must be peace. In this context Musa pointed to President Clinton's emphasis, during his news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday, on the point that peace is the basis for security. He added that one cannot imagine security prevailing without establishing peace.

Egypt: Al-Sharif Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC1007183596 Cairo MENA in English 1549 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA) — The cabinet, at its weekly meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, discussed a report by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on results of the African summit which ended in Yaounde, Cameroon, yesterday.

The cabinet also discussed the foreign policy broadlines and underlined the clear policies declared by President Husni Mubarak during his meeting yesterday with a ministerial group in the presence of Speaker of the Shura [Consultative] council and chairman of the foreign relations committees at the People's Assembly and the Shura Council.

Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said the cabinet underlined President Mubarak's declaration on joint Arab action and drive for boosting peace at the regional and international levels and Egypt's international relations.

The cabinet also discussed the domestic situation in the light of report by Minister of Interior Hasan al-Alfi on security agencies efforts for maintaining security as well as the positive results which led to unveiling various elements of crimes and the seizure of unlicensed weapons. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Commentary on Clinton-Netanyahu News Conference, Peace

NC1007140196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Israel's Security Will Not Be Achieved Without a Comprehensive Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All expectations indicated that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's current visit to Washington would not yield new results as regards the Middle East peace process. These expectations were based on the timing of the visit, which comes amid preparations for the U.S. presidential elections during which there is diminished interest in world issues on the U.S. Administration's agenda of concerns. However, these expectations were far removed from the reality expressed at the news conference held by U.S. President Clinton with the Israeli prime minister after their talks yesterday evening.

President Clinton affirmed that the peace for which the U.S. Administration is eager relies on achieving security and dignity and securing a better life for all the region's nations, including the Israelis and Arabs. He said that peace without security is impossible and that a genuine security without peace is also impossible.

These remarks by the U.S. President confirm several facts. Foremost among them is that peace in the Middle East has become a reality and that no party can effectively stop its process because it is linked to vital interests of all world powers. Without this desired peace, national and non-national interests in the Middle East will be threatened with suspension or deterioration as a result of acts of violence that cannot be controlled or the dangers of which cannot be stemmed.

Moreover, the diplomacy and rationality with which the Arab countries handled the peace process despite Israel's hardline position have demonstrated to the peace-sponsoring countries—the United States, Russia, and Europe—that their battle to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East is linked to a serious strategy and that the Arab peoples support and back this policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Perhaps the international economic conferences held in Casablanca and Jordan in which Israeli delegations took part confirm the sincerity of the Arabs' inclinations toward peace and their concern to ensure security and stability for all the region's nations, including the Israeli people. The Arabs have recognized the existence of the Israeli people and consolidated this recognition by establishing political and economic ties with the Israeli Government. These ties can develop when Israel shows a genuine and serious desire to reach peace with the Arabs on just bases and in line with the principles endorsed by the major powers, sponsors of the peace process.

The joint news conference held by Clinton and Netanyahu did not contain an explicit Israeli pledge that the Israeli prime minister will accept the principle of security for peace to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, President Clinton's assertion of the impossibility of achieving a real security in the region without making peace among the parties concerned contains a clear signal to Israel. This signal is that the United States will not be able to protect Israel's security, which could receive violent jolts unless its government complies with the commitments it made when the Labor Party was in power.

As President Mubarak warned in several interviews with world television networks, Israel's retreats and continued procrastinations about a peaceful settlement will revive terrorist operations in the region and open wide the door to violence and counter violence. Then, the joint security treaties that Israel concludes with the United States will not be able to guarantee any form of stability because it will be extremely difficult to control every place in which explosive situations could develop.

Therefore, a deliberate reading between the lines of the joint news conference held by Clinton and Netanyahu shows that the dominant point is that the first and foremost condition for peace is that this peace be founded on just and acceptable bases and that it achieve for the Arab parties and Israel equal rights and mutual security. This is what the Arabs asserted in the communique issued after their recent summit in Cairo. This communique received world welcome as shown by the resolutions passed by the seven industrial nations' summit concerning Middle East peace.

Morocco

Morocco: 'Arafat Arrives in Rabat, Sends 'Urgent' Message to Russia

JN1007150596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Rabat today from Cameroon. The president will hold talks with King Hassan II of Morocco on bilateral ties, the latest political developments, and the peace process.

President 'Arafat received the Russian ambassador to Morocco at his place of residence in Rabat. The president asked the ambassador to relay an urgent message to the Russian leadership regarding Moscow's firm position on the peace process, which was clear at the G-7 summit.

On the sidelines of the African summit and before departing Yaounde, President 'Arafat met with the presidents of Congo, Mauritania, and Ivory Coast, and the vice president of Gambia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bahrain

Bahrain: Opposition Movement Reports Recent Clashes, Casualties

JN1107113296 (Internet) Voice of Bahrain WWW in English 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling family deployed units from the riot police and the Bahrain Defense Force against unarmed civilians in the villages and towns of Bahrain. The clashes started several days ago and scores of people are reported injured or missing. In Shahrakkan, one person by the name 'Ali-'Abd-al-Amir, was shot, wounded and arrested on 8 July by the foreign-staffed security forces. The latter also stormed virtually all houses in Karzakkan and Dumistan on 10 July arresting male members in all houses in Dumistan following the storming, ransacking and steeling of valuables. Many people were forced to stay outside their homes as a result of the atrocities of these forces.

On 10 July at 6.00 am, clashes resumed in Sitrah, the home island of the three persons sentenced to death on 1 July. Sanabis witnessed clashes on 9 July at 10.30 pm and Daih [name as received] was attacked by the security forces following similar clashes. Some 45 people from Daih had been arrested.

On 9 July, four citizens were sentenced to arbitrary prison terms passed against them by members of the ruling family who preside over the unconstitutional State Security Court. Three received 10 years prison sentences and the fourth received an arbitrary one-year jail sentence. At least 132 people have been arbitrary sentenced since last March.

A group of lawyers and personalities attempted to visit the Amir to request him to review the death sentences passed against the innocent persons, but were turned away by his son-in-law, Shaykh Du'ayj Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah. More than 50 witnesses testified that the defendants had nothing to do with the setting of a restaurant on fire.

The continued detention of about a dozen women in the jails of the ruling family is exacerbating the situation. The public is outraged by the way women are being ill-treated. Previous cases and the indecent treatment adopted by the torturers of the ruling family are creating a highly charged environment.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Deputy Prime Minister Denies Splits in Government

LD1007171196 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 10 Jul (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, affirmed here today that the government is attached to consistent practice of the principle of responsible solidarity and dialogue in managing the affairs of the state so as to meet the higher interests of the homeland and citizens at both internal and external levels.

By this, Shaykh Sabah, in a reply to a question by KUNA, denied what he termed as press speculations and rumors about alleged differences between senior Kuwaiti government officials or members of the executive authorities. Shaykh Sabah expressed dismay at these press speculations, devoid of any truth, and he said that it is regrettable to see such speculations. He urged the media to ascertain the truth about facts and observe their duties to the national interest in reporting events.

Shaykh Sabah stressed that the state is represented by all its constitutional institutions, and that it is managing its general policy and dealing with their requirements on the basis of unity, understanding, serious dialogue, and constructive consultations with a view to meeting the public interest. Shaykh Sabah on Tuesday [9 July] ended a three-week private visit to Morocco, which was the subject of speculation because its date came four days before Arab ministerial meetings to prepare for the Arab summit held in Cairo on 22 and 23 June. This speculation went to the point of allegations that there were differences within the Kuwaiti cabinet on the nature of the relations and strategy that should be adopted in dealing with states that had supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, both during and after the Cairo summit which was attended by officials from the states in question.

Sources close to the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister said in a statement to KUNA that his visit to Morocco was an ordinary holiday for rest from his hard and intensive work. The same sources added that it is not customary to announce in advance the dates of the periodical holidays of Shaykh Sabah.

While in Morocco, Shaykh Sabah had a meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco, to whom he conveyed greetings from the amir and from the heir apparent and prime minister.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait: British Pilot Arrested Over Apostate Protest

MS1107104496 London THE TIMES in English 11 Jul 96 p 12

[Report by Eve-Ann Prentice: "Kuwait Holds British Pilot in Christian Protest"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A British pilot was being questioned by police in Kuwait yesterday after trying to put up hundreds of posters in the emirate protesting at the fate of Robert Hussein, the businessman who fears for his life after converting from Islam to Christianity.

Barnabus Benjamin, who has also resigned from his post with Kuwait Airlines in protest at Mr Hussein's case was arrested on Monday [8 July] while driving around Kuwait City putting up the posters.

They carried a photograph of Mr Hussein with slogans such as: "You cannot be free, Kuwait, without freedom of conscience."

Mr Hussein, who is in hiding after being forcibly divorced from his wife and separated from his children, was ruled to be an apostate by an Islamic court in Kuwait and Islamic lawyers declared he should be killed.

Mr Benjamin, who had worked for Kuwait Airlines and lived in the emirate for 15 years, was freed on Tuesday but called in for questioning again yesterday. Christian groups in America and Britain have protested to Kuwait's embassies about Mr Hussein's plight.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Saudi-Syrian Joint Committee Final Statement

JN1007152896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1118 GMT 10 Jul 96

["Text" of a press statement issued at the end of the meetings of the joint Syrian-Saudi higher committee in Riyadh on 10 July — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Proceeding from the close fraternal relations and deep-rooted historical ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic; in implementation of the directives of King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad; and in compliance with the provisions of the agreement to set up the joint committee for bilateral cooperation signed in Damascus on 5 February 1991, the joint committee for bilateral cooperation held its 6th round in Riyadh during the period 9-10 July 1996.

The Saudi side was led by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, with the participation of His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim al-'Assaf, minister of finance and national economy. The Syrian side was led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Taking part in the meetings were Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance. Also taking part were senior officials from the government ministries, corporations, and establishments in the two sisterly countries, in addition to representatives from their chambers of commerce and industry and a number of businessmen.

The two sides reviewed cooperation ties in all the political, economic, trade, investment, technical, industrial, agricultural, work force, health, education, culture, science, youth, and sports areas. They expressed satisfaction with the progress of these relations. They also expressed satisfaction with the steps that were taken to develop economic relations and increase trade. They agreed to hold a meeting for the technical committee to examine the means of promoting and improving the flow of national exports between them, and agree on the necessary measures in this respect.

In the field of agricultural cooperation, the two parties blessed the memorandum of understanding that was signed by the two countries' agriculture ministers in Riyadh on 26 Shawwal, 1416 of the Hegira. They asserted the role of this agreement in advancing cooperation in this field. In the cultural, media, sports, and youth area, the two sides blessed the executive program that was drawn up to advance this cooperation during 1996, 1997, and 1998. They stressed its importance in terms of bolstering fraternal relations between the two countries' peoples.

In the domain of air transportation, the two sides agreed to hold a meeting between the competent agencies to prepare the final list of the equipment and activities that will be exempted from custom fees in implementation of the Arab agreement on exempting the equipment and activity of the air transportation ratified by the two countries.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results of the Arab summit that was held in Cairo during the period 21-23 June 1996, and with the unwavering principled stands unanimously adopted by the Arab leaders to foster Arab solidarity in harmony with the aspirations of the Arab nation, and to serve the nation's interests and ensure the restoration of its usurped rights.

The two sides asserted their constant and principled stand regarding the requirements of peace. They stressed the importance of commitment to the foundations of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

peace process which was launched at the Madrid conference — foundations that are based on resolutions of international legitimacy, including the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to 4 June 1967 lines should be guaranteed. Israel should also completely and unconditionally withdraw from southern Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' to the internationally-recognized borders. Israel should also completely withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian land, including Arab Jerusalem. The national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be safeguarded.

The Saudi side highly valued Syria's commitment to the foundations of the peace process and confrontation of the obstacles Israel places and fabrications the Israeli Government promotes to circumvent the peace process. It underscored its unwavering support for Syria's just demands and full solidarity with its efforts to regain its occupied land in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The two sides praised the comprehensive international support for the Arab stand vis-a-vis the Middle East peace process. This support was demonstrated in the statements issued by the EU Florence summit and the G-7 Lyons summit, as well as the statements issued by the Islamic summit in Casablanca and the nonaligned summit convening in Carthage. These statements stress that continuing the peace process and resuming negotiations certainly require commitment to the bases of the peace process, particularly the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, the land-for-peace principle, and the assurances given to the parties.

In order to render the peace process a success, the two sides reiterated the Arab summit's call on the cosponsors of the peace process, the EU, China, Japan, the nonaligned countries, the other concerned countries, the United Nations, and international organizations and bodies to ensure that Israel does not undermine the bases of the peace process and complies with the pledges and agreements that were reached.

As the two sides reiterate their sympathy with the Iraqi people in their present ordeal, they welcome the memorandum reached by the United Nations and the Iraqi Government allowing the implementation of Security Council Resolution 986 for 1994 which makes available humanitarian and medical needs for the Iraqi people as a positive step to ease their suffering for which the Iraqi Government is fully responsible. The two sides reiterate their great concern for maintaining the unity of Iraqi territory and their rejection of any policies or measures aimed at threatening Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. They also reaffirm their determination on demanding Iraq to implement all related international resolutions, fulfill its commitments, and free Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees.

The two sides reiterated their solidarity with the sisterly State of Bahrain and their full support for the measures it is taking to consolidate its security and stability. They express their strong rejection of any interference in Bahrain's internal affairs, reaffirming their support for it against any threat from any party.

Stemming from the Arab summit's call on Iran to respect the sovereignty of the State of Bahrain within the framework of mutual respect and good neighborly relations, the Saudi side expressed its appreciation of the efforts, which are being made by Syria and which resulted in stopping media campaign as a first step toward clearing the atmosphere of Bahraini-Iranian relations on the basis of understanding and good neighborly relations in a way that will contribute to supporting the security and stability of the sisterly State of Bahrain and regional states.

The two sides reiterated their strong condemnation of the terrorist actions which some Arab countries face, and said these actions are alien to the Islamic and Arab values. They emphasized that the two governments are determined to stand firmly against these actions and launch efforts to ensure that the perpetrators of these actions are brought to justice.

The Syrian side reiterated its strong condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist action the kingdom recently faced, and its unequivocal rejection of anything that harms the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and its fraternal people, stressing its full solidarity with Saudi Arabia--king, government, and people.

The Syrian side expressed thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitability with which it was received since its arrival in its second home, Saudi Arabia. The two sides agreed to hold the seventh session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation in Damascus during the first half of 1997. The date will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Issued in Riyadh on Wednesday, 10 July 1996.

Saudi Arabia: Shaykh Sa'd—Saudis, Kuwaitis Finalize Border Agreement

LD1007163496 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister in the State of Kuwait, said that the stands taken by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the two holy mosques, his government and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, were marked with courage and responsibility toward Kuwait. He added: The government and people of Kuwait appreciate these stands taken by the brethren in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its wise leadership.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah described his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during which he had the honor of meeting the custodian of the two holy mosques, as successful. At a news conference held today at the guest palace in Jeddah, and attended by the delegation accompanying him and His Excellency Dr. Fu'ad Bin-'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi, the information minister, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Jarallah, minister of municipal and rural affairs, the accompanying minister, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister in the State of Kuwait said that his visit, and that of the members of his delegation, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stemmed from Kuwait's belief in the usefulness of these meetings for consultations and an exchange of opinions on all matters and issues concerning the Arab nation as a whole and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states in particular.

He said: Relations between the kingdom and Kuwait are special and historic built on more cooperation, understanding, joint action and on a shared objective and destiny. He added that during his visit he was reassured about the health of the custodian of the two holy mosques and said: He is in excellent condition, praise be to God. I discussed with him all the issues pertaining to the interest of the Arab nation and the relations existing between the two sisterly countries. He [as heard] prayed to God Almighty to grant the custodian of the two holy mosques more success and to crown all his efforts with success.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques, his highness the crown prince, his highness the second deputy prime minister, their royal highnesses the princes, and the Saudi people for the warm welcome and hospitality given to him and his delegation.

His highness said: The delicate and difficult situation which the Arab nation is going through requires more awareness, follow up, readiness and caution and working together hand in hand in order to foil all the evil plans aimed at tearing apart and dismembering the Arab nation. He said he is optimistic that there will be more work, cooperation, and coordination in all areas in order to thwart those plans and aims by relying on God Almighty.

His highness also said: The Arab nation has a lot of work and many issues to deal with now and in the future in order to serve its own objectives.

In reply to a question on the demarcation of borders between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait, his highness said: There is no problem between us and the brethren in the kingdom as regards the border demarcation. There is nothing between the kingdom and Kuwait which is difficult to solve at present or in the future, God willing. He added: Through a continuous dialogue and consultation, we managed, praise be to God, to put the finishing touches to the border issue. This agreement will be made public soon. He also said: In Kuwait, we find that the current circumstances which our vital region of the region is going through requires us as officials in Kuwait, and our brethren in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia share this with us, to increase cooperation, coordination, consultation and constructive action aimed at ensuring the happiness of the two fraternal peoples in all areas and aspects.

In reply to a question on the future policy of the Kuwaiti government toward the countries which supported Iraq, his highness the heir apparent in the State of Kuwait said this policy was drawn up by the Kuwaiti government after the stand of every Arab or foreign state became clear, together with the stands taken by officials in those states which were supporting and helping the Iraqi regime in all political, economic, and information areas. He said: Those states should have instead stood by the state which was victim of an aggression. But unfortunately they stood by the state which carried out the aggression.

His highness the heir apparent of Kuwait called on those states to return to the right path, indicating that his government did not want to complicate matters or escalate them. He said: However, those states must take a clear stand in all areas.

In reply to a question on what Kuwait has called, in its policy, the principle of reconciliation before the reconciliation and what that meant, the heir apparent in the State of Kuwait said: We do not want to escalate the situation, not now and not in the future; nor do we want to obstruct the efforts of those who want to return to the right path. However, the Kuwaiti people have the right, now and in the future, to hear that these states which supported the Iraqi regime in its invasion of Kuwait have reconsidered their position and want to take the right path.

He added: We do not want to complicate matters and set conditions. The only condition we want [to set] is that those states say, openly and in an audible voice, that they now want to take the right path. We will take the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

steps which correspond to Kuwait's present and future interests. He also said: We do not cling to the past but we work in the present for the good of the Arab and Islamic nation, and in all areas.

Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari Predicts Terrorist Attacks on Civilian Targets

BR1107094196 Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish 10 Jul 96 p 5

[Report on interview with Saudi Arabian dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari by Charlotte Aagaard; place and date not given: "You Will Be Next"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Controversial Saudi Arabian dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari predicts that foreign civilians will be the next victims of the political violence in Saudi Arabia.

There is a man in London who is the closest we can come to the people behind last month's bomb attack in Saudi Arabia without simply tracking them down in person.

His name is Muhammad al-Mas'ari and he is the most prominent spokesman for the Islamist groups that are trying to overthrow the Saudi royal family and introduce what they see as a "real Islamic republic."

There is nothing to suggest that the former physics professor at the King Saud University in Riyadh who is now an exile politician was personally involved in the attack on 25 June in which 19 U.S. soldiers were killed and almost 400 injured.

But he knows a great deal about the people who are thought to be behind the hitherto two bombings that Saudi Arabia has experienced in the last six months. He also largely shares their political objectives and has great sympathy for their methods.

And he predicts that foreign civilians will be the next victims of the militant groups.

Holy War

Muhammad al-Mas'ari founded the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, CDLR, which on the face of it sounds like a human rights organization.

However, it is not. It is a small Islamist association that is waging a holy war against the notoriously corrupt and autocratic Saudi royal family.

His resources are those of the 20th century: fax, cassettes, telephones and e-mail, and his aim is to spread the group's criticism of the Saudi regime as far as possible in Saudi Arabia itself.

INFORMATION asked him what he thought of the recent bomb attack.

[Aagaard] The CDLR did not condemn the attack. Does this mean that you support the use of this type of method?

[Al-Mas'ari] We do not use this sort of method. We are working to change the Saudi system exclusively politically and intellectually. We are trying to mobilize the masses with the help of written material, cassettes, and so forth. When we have succeeded in spreading our views sufficiently we will organize a wave of demonstrations that we hope will then trigger an internal conflict in the Saudi royal family and persuade the army to seize power.

[Aagaard] But you have a great deal of understanding for the fact that there are some groups which use these kinds of methods.

"Yes, absolutely," al Mas'ari confirmed, explaining why:

Foreigners in Danger

"The groups that are behind the bomb attacks regard the Saudi leaders as apostate Muslims and view all their actions as un-Islamic. They believe that the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia is an occupation. Some of them even go so far that they view all those who help King Saud and his family as apostates and therefore legitimate targets. Therefore they will not hesitate to attack government members, members of the royal family, military installations, the security service, or foreign civilians," al-Mas'ari said, comparing the Saudi groups with the Armed Islamic Group, GIA, in Algeria and al-Jihad (Holy War) in Egypt, which also attack foreign civilians.

On the whole al-Mas'ari believes that ordinary foreigners will be the militant groups' next targets. A view he bases on unconfirmed reports that on 22 June the Saudi police are supposed to have found a bomb in a part of Jiddah where U.S. airline employees live.

There are some indications that al-Mas'ari might be right. According to the British newspaper, THE GUARDIAN, the American International School in Riyadh was mentioned in a threatening letter sent to the U.S. Embassy last week.

The Afghans Again

Al-Mas'ari makes no secret of the fact that he is well briefed on what is happening in the extremist of the Saudi political scene.

[Aagaard] What kind of people are behind the attacks?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"They are probably the so-called "Afghans" or "Mojahedin," veterans from the 1980s' war against the Communists in Afghanistan. They have returned to Saudi Arabia where they have organized themselves into small groups of between five and 30 people. Despite their fragmented organization they are extremely effective — like cluster bombs."

[Aagaard] Can they chase the Americans out of Saudi Arabia?

"Not immediately, but if there are enough attacks or if U.S. civilians start to arrive home in body bags, the United States will have to weigh up its presence in Saudi Arabia," said al-Mas'ari, who is convinced that the attacks will continue.

"We will see more of this kind of thing. There is nothing to suggest that the militant groups will not try again. In any case as long as the Americans are effectively occupying Saudi Arabia, and continue to monitor the international air exclusion zone in Iraq from Saudi territory. That is a criminal act which cannot be tolerated under any circumstances and is damaging the legitimacy of the Saudi regime to the highest possible degree.

[Aagaard] Can they threaten the regime?

"Of course not, but the situation could become very unstable."

For the time being Muhammad al-Mas'ari has a four-year residence permit in Great Britain, but the British authorities are certainly not enthusiastic about his presence there which has produced strong protests from Riyadh. Last fall the British Government tried to deport him to the Caribbean island of Dominica, but was forced to give up after a long legal tug-of-war.

Since the residence permit was issued in March al-Mas'ari has unfortunately drawn attention to himself with a string of controversial statements about "the duty to exterminate Jews" and "destroy the Jewish entity (Israel) in a holy war," while refusing to condemn the use of political violence.

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Sees U.S. Presence as 'Heresy'

MM1107092896 London CDLR MONITOR in Arabic 3 Jul 96 pp 1-3

[Bulletin No. 105 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 3 July: "News and Comment; Blowing Up the News" — received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are not going to talk about the [Dhahran] explosion itself here — its magnitude, the number of casualties, the complex level of preparation, and so on. All that is well known and has been exhausted by the media — the American media of course — in breadth and detail.

Before broaching the background, the political implications, and future expectations, we must emphasize certain Shari'ah rules and objective facts which must always be observed, adhered to, and held to with an iron fist:

1. The Al Sa'ud regime has -- and we have God's proof — been blasphemous since the days of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz in that it promulgated blasphemous laws such as the Saudi citizenship law and the commercial courts law followed by a series of other blasphemous laws such as the banks control law which licensed usury against the will of God and his Prophet. At the international level, the flagrant blasphemy also dates back a long way to the time when the Kingdom joined the Brian Clogg [as transliterated] agreement banning jihad and then became a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, and other organizations of heresy and international, regional, and local tyranny. The fatwas [edicts] of the Al Sa'ud scholars will neither extricate its members from their dilemma nor change these categorical facts in any way. Muslims will reject them just as they rejected the fatwas pertaining to the facts about the earth being round and rotating which made them the target of ridicule. So the Al Sa'ud regime has lost all Islamic legitimacy through its flagrant blasphemy and has become virtually banished under the Shari'ah.

2. The Al Sa'ud regime is an unjust regime and a usurper of power, denying Muslims their right to shura [consultation], loyalty, and authority, including the right to make rulers accountable. It certainly was not based on a vote or on popular elections. Obviously it has no democratic legitimacy in the Western sense or even in the Islamic sense, if the term Islamic democracy is applied to the nation's power and its right to allegiance, elections, shura, and accountability of rulers. A regime such as that is a fatal problem for its Western masters who falsely and hypocritically brag about their love for democracy and human rights and their willingness to go to war in their defense.

3. The Al Sa'ud regime is a treasonous corrupt regime which has betrayed the nation, embezzled its wealth, squandered its dignity, and enabled enemies to get a stranglehold on it. That is known to the people of the Peninsula and others — to the Arabs, Persians, Muslims, and others. We will not go into details about that now but suffice it to recall that that sinister family plundered more than half a trillion (that is more than 500 billion) dollars of public wealth, some of which was given away at gambling tables, on alcohol, drugs, and Eastern and Western prostitutes. A large part went to Western usurer

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

banks to enable the capitalist bunch controlling the West to consolidate its economic colonialism of Muslim countries in particular and the oppressed third world countries in general through loans with outrageous rates of usury, which has inflicted economic, social, and political ruin on these vanquished countries.

4. There should be no heretic sovereignty or heretic foreign forces under such a banner and sovereignty in Muslim countries, especially the Arabian Peninsula, the cradle of Islam, or in God's holy place in Palestine which had God's blessings, because that would constitute a violation of the categorical elements of the supremacy of the Shari'ah projecting religion and its prevalence, the sublime place of Islam and its paramountcy. Therefore, an American armed presence under the American flag is absolutely prohibited and totally rejected, just like the criminal Zionist presence in Palestine, especially in holy Jerusalem. It is a known imperative in Islam that supremacy of the Shari'ah — which is one of the pillars of the faith in the one God — takes precedence over all other necessities such as self-preservation, human dignity, honor, children, wealth, and so on. The American presence is one of the most prohibited things. Accepting it or allowing it is absolute heresy. Even the Al Sa'ud family know that. That is why, after the Riyadh incident, they falsely claimed that the American forces colonizing the Arabian Peninsula are a small group of trainers, experts, and engineers under "Saudi" sovereignty. But God finally exposed them after the al-Khubar explosion when the Americans stated, and when CNN most insolently repeated, that the United States had worked scores of years to get these bases, that they would not easily leave them, and that the Dhahran base especially is the base from which military aircraft take off to impose the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq. So where is the Saudi sovereignty in relation to these aggressive planes? And what are the roles of the bases of Khamis, Mushayt, Riyadh, al-Kharj, and others?

5. We have said that the Al Sa'ud regime has no Islamic legitimacy. That is why its decision to invite foreign heretic forces in is void under the Shari'ah because these forces only came to protect the crown which made it possible for them to impose their hegemony on the nation. It is certainly known that the Al Sa'ud regime lacks democratic legitimacy and is not based on popular foundations. It is also known that the people of the Peninsula did not agree to that presence in a direct popular ballot or through an elected council. So how could the people of the Peninsula be plunged into confrontations and hostilities with Iraq, Iran, and other neighboring states and peoples without their permission or consultation? Is that not a flagrant contravention and complete violation of human rights, especially the "right of self-determination," which is one of the most important, essential, and acknowledged rights of the current international legitimacy? What happened to the boast, by the United States in particular and the West in general, about respect for democracy, human rights, and the right of self-determination? Are these just confined to Americans and Europeans of white skin and Aryan origin who believe in Christianity, with the savage Muslims and colored people not having a share in them?

6. The entry and continuing presence of the heretic foreign forces in the Arabian Peninsula, the cradle of Islam, has not been for the purpose of liberating Kuwait, defending the people of the Peninsula, defending rights, or even promoting democracy and human rights. The aim has been to destroy and humiliate Iraq, destroy its people's morale, and push it into the lap of Israel, and also to pave the way for the destruction, humiliation, and siege of Iran (the dual containment policy previously announced by the United States). These are the short-term objectives. The long-term objectives are consolidation of the racist usurping Zionist entity in Palestine after the expulsion and annihilation of its people, and colonization of the region, humiliation of its people, and the plundering of their wealth and resources.

7. Blockading Iraq, starving it, and completing its destruction are existing realities, not mere opinions or political analyses. The decision in favor of that was made by the United States under cover of the United Nations and "international legitimacy." The operation for the destruction of Iraq was given the title "Kuwait's Liberation." Other beautiful terms were used such as Provide Comfort and Provide Hope, and there have been other "clean" deceptive names such as imposition of an air exclusion zone in southern or northern Iraq, enforcement of international legitimacy, and so on, in the usual Western and Western media way of giving attractive or misleading names to the ugliest events. For instance, the murder of hundreds of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and the rape of scores of thousands of Muslim women was innocently called "ethnic cleansing." As the U.S. military aircraft which take off from the Dhahran base have the main responsibility of "enforcing the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq," it is perhaps appropriate that we should expose the ugly truth hidden behind that "cleansed" expression. That truth is: The American air forces fly under their own heretic flag and emblem over southern Iraq, the land of Islam and Muslims and of the heroism of the Prophet's companions at al-Qadisiyah, the resting place of God's lion, prince of the faithful Imam 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib, and the martyrdom site of the best of the men in heaven, the best martyr al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

children, and the heroic men of religion who drenched Karbala with their blood. Yes, these planes are flying and roaring to humiliate the Muslims who, God ordained in the Shari'ah, should have the glory which he linked to his own holy glory. "And glory to God, his Prophet, and the believers." And they do so in support of the vile capitalist clique which sucks people's blood and is deep in the mud of usury, debauchery, and sin, and in support of their racist and hateful Zionist allies, heirs of the rabbis, killers of prophets, and brothers of monkeys and pigs, and in support of their lackeys the criminal Al Sa'ud dynasty who changed the Shari'ah, were openly blasphemous, confiscated the nation's rights, squandered its wealth, and betrayed God, his Prophet, and the faithful. Yes, in support of all those who, God ordered, should be disgraced. "Those who resist God and his apostle will be among those most humiliated" [Koranic verse]. The imperialist invading American forces are here to humiliate those honored by God and honor those humiliated by God, all under the "cleansed" expressions of "imposing international legitimacy" and "enforcing the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq."

We here, from the angle of jurisprudence, ask the Al Sa'ud family: What is the justification under the Shari'ah for the blockade of Iraq? And we remind them that Thamamah Bin-Athal al-Hanafi had imposed a limited siege on Quraysh — leader of heresy and tyranny in the Arabian Peninsula at the time — by withholding wheat from it. So Quraysh wrote to Abi-al-Qasim appealing for mercy, and he, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, ordered an end to the siege that had been imposed on his worst enemies, the enemies of God and his Prophet, the tyrants of Quraysh. Yes, that is what he, may God's prayers be upon him and his family, did. But, the Al Sa'ud family, who claim to believe in God and the hereafter and always brag that they are believers in the one and only God and in pure righteous faith, are preoccupied with research on menstruation, childbirth, and protecting their backside like a burdened donkey, and also writing and using charms and amulets and selling that to the public, just like their Jewish predecessors who claimed to be "God's chosen and beloved people."

We also wonder about the blockades of Libya and Sudan. Answer us, you scholars of Islam and upholders of the pure faith!

As for us, we, by God, see the blockade of Iraq as a criminal despicable act, one of the most sinister kinds of international terrorism carried out by the United States under the cover of international legitimacy, the United Nations, and other organizations of heresy and international tyranny. We will come back to this subject with a thorough and detailed discussion in the course of our current series: "The Al Sa'ud Family and International Legitimacy."

8. There is not and never was a blockade by the people of the Peninsula against the people of Iraq or vice versa, for both are Muslim Arab people. If Iraq invaded and annexed the Peninsula or if the latter invaded Iraq and annexed it, that would still be a purely Arab-Islamic affair. If such a thing happened between Iraq, the Peninsula, and Iran, it would still be a purely Islamic affair that does not concern the heretics. Yes, there may be a threat to the Al Sa'ud crown or the Al Sabah [Kuwaiti] crown from the Iraqi regime or the Iranian regime, or vice versa, but the peoples have nothing to do with that. Muslim scholars throughout the ages have warned all Muslims against getting involved in the conflicts of unjust rulers, meaning: "Let God wreak vengeance on the unjust through the unjust, while you [the people] emerge safe." The Islamic scholars forbid involvement in fights of sedition and warn against being a cause of Muslim bloodshed. So what about those who have invited the heretics in and enabled them to kill and humiliate Muslims, destroy their countries, and plunder their wealth? Yes, if an elected imamate of legitimate justice, based on supremacy of the Shari'ah and the nation, that would uphold accountability and be responsible for the nation individually and collectively in the tradition of the Prophet, emerges — and it will inevitably emerge as the last of the prophets, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, said it would — and if it ruled with the Shari'ah, established justice, expelled the heretic colonialists and their stooges from Islamic land, established a just economic Islamic system, abolished usury, protected public wealth and used it to serve the interests of the Muslims and oppressed peoples and nations, and upheld the Islamic call of light and guidance to the world, and established justice, everyone who believes in God and the hereafter would join its banner and support it with his life, wealth, and offspring, and then let the United States and its agents of Al Sa'ud, Al Sabah, and others, and let the artificial borders created by imperialism go to hell.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: UN Committee Completes Final Draft on Imports, Exports List

JN1007114496 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1106 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 10 Jul (INA)—The UN Sanctions Committee has completed the final draft of the list of the procedures on Iraq's imports and exports in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between Iraq and the United Nations on oil for food, medicine, and basic needs.

Tono Ethel [name as transliterated], the committee's chairman, who is also Germany's ambassador to the United Nations, expressed the belief that the approvals of the committee's member states will arrive at the United Nations within two days to be ready for the final endorsement next Friday [19 July].

Ethel said that the expected approvals of the draft list are not connected with its topics, but with the wording of the very minute details. He pointed out that the committee will convey the final draft, after the final approval, to the UN Security Council. He said it will be drafted in all languages approved by the United Nations to make it an official UN document.

The German ambassador to the United Nations attributed the delay in the drafting of the list, which took 27 unofficial meetings and another four official meetings over seven weeks, to the delicate issues related to respecting Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said this has been achieved, in addition to working for the implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

Dr. al-Anbari said Iraq and the United Nations have a mutual concern about expediting the implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

Iraq: Country Said Goaded To Join Turkey-Israel Pact

JN1007085796 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Jul 96 pp 20-21

[Report by Nayil Mukhaybar from Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sentries standing guard outside a Turkish Defense Ministry building in Ankara looked uncharacteristically ill at ease at that normally uneventful late hour of the night. They had been put on alert to greet three Turkish generals who had arrived unexpectedly to prepare for the visit of two foreign delegations. The delegates arrived later within barely five minutes of each other to join in a secret meeting. A report by a very active Western agency in Turkey said that the meeting carried "momentous and equally important implications for the balance of power in the Middle East and the region's new security and political order."

This characterization may even have been an understatement if, as seems likely, it will emerge in the next few months how positive were the highly secretive talks and negotiations that brought together two militarily allied regional players, Turkey and Israel, and a third party to which tempting incentives were held out as inducement to attend.

Observers were struck by the fact that the Turkish negotiators were military people with the ranks of Brigadier General and above. Not that this raised eyebrows or undermined the credibility of the Turkish delegates, since, by all accounts, Turkish politics are now, more than any time in the past, being run mainly by the military, and all important decisions, whether those bearing on internal or external affairs, are made by the Ministry of Defense. However, what aroused most interest was the participation of a very outstanding and "interesting" military figure, namely General Cefic Bir [name as transliterated], the Turkish chief of staff, who paid a secret visit to Tel Aviv in February 1996 to sign a military cooperation pact with Israel. He is said to have been to Israel at least twice since.

As for the Israeli team to the talks, more precisely the Jewish delegation, it included two close associates of the Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordechay. The two Israeli delegates to the Ankara talks were both born in Iraq and are said to be highly influential in the circles of the Iraqi Jewish community in Israel. One of them is also reported to be a businessman who can pull strings in Israel and is co-owner of a successful media group; he also maintains contacts with a network of Arab businessmen, of whom some are Iraqis who are in very good standing with the Baghdad regime.

As for the third delegation, it moved discreetly from Baghdad to Ankara amid tight security and was led by an adviser at President Saddam Husayn's office. He was said by some to be "the president's private secretary." He was accompanied by an Iraqi who had been involved in past contacts held between Israel and Iraq, particularly during the tenure of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and he is said to be well informed of this file.

Inducements Galore

The information leaked from the talks point to Turkey and Israel vying to come up with alluring offers for Iraq. After both Israel and Turkey, and especially the latter, sought to reassure Iraq that the military pact between Ankara and Tel Aviv did not foresee Iraq as the target,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Turks proposed, as a show of goodwill, that they and the Iraqis embark on a joint project on which there seemed to have been prior agreement with the Israelis.

It has been learned that the kind of offer made to the Iraqis seemed to hint at a shared interest among the three to promote their cooperation before co-opting Iraq into the Turkish-Israeli alliance. The Israelis and Turks seem to have had advance coordination on the proposal they made to Iraq. Highlights of the proposal are:

The two parties "allies" commit to work to get the international sanctions on Iraq lifted. At this point, the chief Israeli delegate to the Ankara talks, who spoke in Arabic, made a point of reminding the Iraqi side of the clout and efficiency of the Zionist lobby in the United States. He vowed that the lobby would orchestrate a U.S. media effort to burnish the image of President Saddam Husayn and his regime with the American and world public and, furthermore, make a determined effort to seek a complete lifting of the sanctions. The Iraqi Jew said that if Iraq was responsive in the future, the six months following the American presidential vote could prove decisive with respect to Iraq rejoining the fold of the international community and the scrapping of all the sanctions. He pointed out that the definitive resolution of the question of the inspection of the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq could represent the right start for a breakthrough and pave the way for developing the oil-for-food deal. It seems that the Israeli delegate impressed on the Iraqis that Israel would be just as effective in working toward getting a dialogue started between Baghdad and Washington as it was in rallying American public opinion against Iraq. At which point, a Turkish general at the talks stepped in to tell the chief Iraqi delegate: Do you think the Turkish-Israeli pact would have been possible without American initiative or the support of NATO? The pact marks as the start of launching new and key axes in the region; our aim is that it not remain confined to Turkey and Israel. We are fully aware of the risks involved in such confinement as well as the sensitivities of the Arab world and its concerns. Our interest in Arab states joining the pact is an indication of our good faith proof that it is directed neither against the Arab world nor its security.

The Turkish general disclosed that there had been preliminary contacts with Jordan but these had so far met with indecision and certain doubts. Turkey, he emphasized, would like to see as many Arab states as possible become part of the new Middle East project.

The report noted that the Israeli side promised to help in the effort to rehabilitate Iraq's agricultural infrastructure through experts and agricultural technology so that, in effect, Iraq would embark on an agricultural revolution that would result in the Iraqis becoming the biggest exporter of agricultural goods in the region and thus achieve revenues comparable to those of its oil sector.

The Turkish negotiators seem to have used the floating of the agricultural subject to open the contentious file of the Euphrates waters. The Turks promised to increase Iraq's quota of the waters and to give it a preferential treatment over Syria, especially if Iraq and Turkey could work out a greater degree of cooperation on the question of the Kurds and the Kurdistan Workers Party and if Iraq continued to give Turkey the right of hot pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas inside Iraqi territory. One of the Turkish generals at the talks indicated the need for a common approach to the Kurdish crisis between Iraq and Turkey, maintaining that Iran was pouring oil on the fire to the extent that it risks a conflagration in northern Iraq and jeopardizes Iraq's territorial integrity there. He also maintained that Iran was fomenting anti-Iraq sedition in the south of the country. The Israeli, at this point, vowed that his country was concerned about Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and opposed to all plans to partition the country.

Warnings From Syria and Iraq

Throughout the longer-than-two hour-session, the Iraqis were noted to have been more of listeners than speakers and to have restricted themselves to interjections seeking clarifications of certain points raised by the Turks or Israelis, which left the impression that the Iraqis had not brought along clear instructions to engage in substantive negotiations. They were there apparently to listen and then report back on what they had heard ahead of pertinent decisions being made by the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad. The Iraqis were especially keen to determine how truly "representative" the Iraqi Jews at the session were and whether they could pass as credible negotiators for the Israeli Government. Perhaps to soothe the Iraqis' concerns, the Iraqi Jewish businessman disclosed that before he arrived for the Ankara talks, he had had contacts with senior Netanyahu advisers of whom he mentioned Dore Golda, the prime minister's adviser for diplomatic affairs, the one who initiated contacts with the Palestinian National Authority on behalf of the new Israeli Government and who is also charged with approaching Arab states. As proof of his bona fide credentials and to show his in-depth expert knowledge of his subject, the Israeli delegate laid out a quick sketch of the past contacts between the Iraqis and Israelis indicating their locations and specifics of the talks themselves. He then told the Iraqis: "The plan that we have brought along with us is the most serious, important and feasible, and I would advise you to take a hard-boiled approach to it, because it not only represents an effort to save

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq but a grand project that promises a prosperous future for Iraq within a quite solid political and economic, and even military, context. This time you stand to make huge profits, whereas the counter proposal that has been made to you is sure to bring about a catasurophe for the Iraqi regime and the country itself."

Asked by Saddam Husayn's adviser what counter proposal he was talking about, he said: "You know full well that I was referring to a projected Iraqi-Syrian-Iranian alliance. The open-ended Turkey-Israel alliance is your only way out; it will be your savior. You will only reap trouble from the alternative option. Just take a hard and long look at our proposal; we do not expect you to join the alliance anytime soon, and let the matter rest until the sanctions are lifted once and for all. But you have, from now on, to make goodwill gestures to help us create the right atmosphere."

The sides finished by promising each other to set up another session at which the parties would show up carrying answers to the questions and proposals raised at this meeting. A week later, watchers following the Ankara session learned that high-level meetings were held in Baghdad to discuss regional developments and axes and counter axes the contour of which are now taking shape in secret in the region, and in which Iraq is being offered an important place. The Iraqi leadership is aware that it is being targeted for political offensives from more than one quarter that promise to push Baghdad to make a definite decision.

Iraq Vacillates

Iraq and Syria unexpectedly initiated contacts and at the same time equally suddenly communications got underway between the Iraqis and Iranians, the aim being to bring in Iraq into the Damascus-Tehran axis and so forge a front to counter plans to isolate the Syrians and hit the Iranians. There has been a trend within Iraq favoring such an alliance, arguing that the United States is bent on a dual containment policy vis-a-vis Iraq and Iran. The advocates of this trend cite sources as pointing to an American opinion that the United States will be hard put to attempt a three-way containment effort against Tehran, Damascus, and Baghdad. Meanwhile, another Iraqi trend continues to raise the alarm about Iranian ambitions in Iraq on the one hand and, on the other, recall the differences that have long bedeviled relations between the Baghdad and Damascus regimes. This second school of thought would prefer Iraq to pursue a pragmatic policy that would make optimum use of these contradictions and the card-shuffling in order that Iraq may recapture its status and place, which cannot happen before the sanctions are lifted and the country returns to the fold of the international community. As per the calculations of the second trend, a reconciliation between Damascus and Baghdad and its development to the status of cooperation and alliance between the two sister countries and erstwhile enemies is now a top priority for a Syrian regime under near total siege, seeing that the Syrians can now play the Saddam Husayn and Iraq card to break loose from their isolation. Its proponents were caught unawares by the more enticing offer that was dangled by Turkey and Israel. Not that they were not aware of the fact that the Turkish-Israeli proposal meant to neutralize Iraq and so advance Turkish interests by precluding an Iranian-Syrian-Iraqi alliance that would outweigh the threat posed by a Turkish-Israeli threat to Syria and Iran.

According to sources privy to the proceedings at the Ankara meeting and those in the corridors of power in Baghdad, the Iraqi regime is still undecided what option to take; It is patently clear to the Iraqis that what they are being offered is rescue for their country in exchange for their joining an effort with the implicit goal of getting Syria's head. Observers do not rule out a link between Baghdad failure as yet to provide a clear-cut answer to the proposal made in Ankara to information leaked by the U.S. Administration to THE WASHINGTON POST, in which the CIA is said to be still engaged in preparations for a plot to depose the Iraqi regime, the thrust of this effort this time ominously being a military coup. Not coincidentally, Rolf Ekeus is reported to have communicated to Baghdad clear warnings of the existence of an international plan to punish Iraq militarily if it persisted in obstructing the work of the UN inspection team. This "military" escalation, according to knowledgeable sources, is part of a plan to pile pressures on Iraq with a view, on the one hand, to deterring it from joining the Syria-Iran camp, and, on the other hand, to getting it to make a definite decision and signal clearly where it stands on what it was offered in Ankara. It should be clear in the next few weeks or months what kind of response the Iraqis had supplied.

Iraq: Intelligence Officers Said Among Dead in Baghdad Blast

MM1107103696 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Group Reports Blast in Baghdad Military Establishment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that seven people were killed and 11 others injured on 2 July in a blast in one of the Iraqi military establishments in the al-'Ubaydy district in the capital, Baghdad.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In a statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, SAIRI spokesman Hamid al-Bayyati said that two Iraqi intelligence officers, a captain and a first lieutenant, were among the dead. He added that "the violent blast also destroyed a major part of this establishment," the nature of which he did not specify, saying only that it is "a secret military establishment" and that "most of its employees are members of the security and intelligence organs." Al-Bayyati said that the Iraqi authorities blocked off the area of the incident and closed the streets leading to it, while ambulances and fire engines were seen to be constantly on the move. The flames could be seen from a distance of many kilometers. No confirmation of this incident was received from other sources.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Sources—Clinton 'Does Not Accept' Netanyahu Peace Approach

TA1007182696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A standing ovation in the U.S. Congress, but less so at the White House. Senior sources in the prime minister's entourage in Washington admit that at this point President Clinton does not accept Netanyahu's approach concerning the negotiations with the Palestinians and Syria, but is prepared to consider parts of it. The sources add that in the private meeting Netanyahu left a better impression on the U.S. President, and promised to meet Yasir 'Arafat very soon. Our correspondent in Washington 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin Rosen recording] Even in the days when the Likud claimed the White House was Shim'on Peres' campaign headquarters, Binyamin Netanyahu derived pleasure from the U.S. Congress. The Republican majority did not see eye to eye with the administration on the handshakes with 'Arafat, not to mention the chase after peace with Syria.

Netanyahu came to Congress following a chilly opening of his relations with President Clinton. Despite all the talk about chemistry, the pastoral images conceal the White House's uneasiness, or perhaps disappointment, about the message delivered by Netanyahu. Old hands say Clinton's body language turned their joint news conference into one of the most frozen and tense encounters ever remembered here between an Israeli prime minister and a U.S. President.

Israeli and U.S. sources argued yesterday that in their tete-a-tete meeting Netanyahu was softer and more pragmatic, but a senior member of the Israeli entourage admits: Undoubtedly there is a problem with the message Netanyahu brought here, and Clinton definitely expected more. Dore Gold, Netanyahu's political adviser, hastened to say that some people in the U.S. Administration were trying to drive a wedge.

Yesterday it was Netanyahu who made President Clinton sweat, to the delight of most members of the Israeli entourage. A senior one smilingly said: They may not agree with this policy, but it is now clear to them that there is a new government in Jerusalem. Another, more worried senior member said: Netanyahu embarrassed President Clinton and got carried away to what at times sounded like a populist election speech.

Commentators say that come November Netanyahu would like the Republican majority on Capitol Hill to be translated into a victory by Robert Dole in the elections. Another four years with Clinton in the White House and the sweat glands could also start working on the Israeli side.

These are the main points of disagreement between Israel and the United States: On the Palestinian issue, Clinton says 'Arafat has been acting against terror, and the agreements must be implemented. Netanyahu claims that 'Arafat has violated the agreements.

On the Syrian issue, Netanyahu says there will be no progress in the negotiations if terror does not stop, while Clinton argues that negotiations should continue on comprehensive peace in the region.

A less distinct disagreement pertains to the general message about peace. There is no peace without security, says Netanyahu, while Clinton stresses that there is no security without peace.

On the issue of settlements, Clinton says they endanger the peace process, while Netanyahu says it is our right to settle everywhere although the government has not yet decided whether to build new settlements.

There are also points of agreement: All-out war on terror, and the Palestinians must honor the Oslo agreements. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israel: Bank Governor—No Plans To Cut U.S. Aid 'at This Stage'

TA1007191896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the remarks the prime minister made this evening to Congress in Washington, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel wished to clarify that Israel does not intend to cut back its request for economic aid from the United States at this stage. He told our correspondent in Washington Shlomo Raz that, at this stage, defense aid is even supposed to grow. Regarding the prime minister's remarks that Israel will attempt to become independent of U.S. aid, Frenkel said that the process will be long and last many years.

Israel: Netanyahu—Aid Cut Only After Another 2 Years 'at Least'

TA1107050196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on [illegible] meeting with President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that they had a very congenial and warm discussion. The prime minister noted that the atmosphere at the meeting was excellent.

Mr. Netanyahu also sought to clarify his remarks on weaning Israel of U.S. aid, noting that Israel would have

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to continue receiving U.S. aid at its present level at least for the next two years.

Netanyahu said he was surprised by the transportation minister's decision to close down Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan and Yirmiyahu streets during prayer hours on Sabbaths and holidays. Netanyahu reaffirmed that his government has pledged to maintain the religious status quo and promised that no more streets in the capital would be closed. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said he was also surprised by the decision.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister David Levi disclosed that he and Prime Minister Netanyahu would meet with Yasir 'Arafat in the near future, perhaps within two weeks.

Israel: Further Netanyahu Comments on Clinton Meeting, U.S. Aid

TA1107055796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is concluding his visit to Washington and leaving for meetings with Jewish leaders and media luminaries in New York. As the Washington leg of his tour draws to a close, the pundits have already started evaluating and analyzing the visit.

The prime minister said that no one would be able to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States. Netanyahu denied any friction between him and President Clinton. Binyamin Netanyahu was speaking at a briefing for Israeli correspondents.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] First of all, the speech was written before I heard these strange reports. Second, these reports are indeed bizarre and even slightly amusing. I have just concluded a two-hour, very open, congenial, direct, warm, and on occasion humorous meeting with the U.S. President, although most of the issues we discussed are clearly no laughing matter. The atmosphere was excellent and I am convinced that there is a U.S. readiness for full cooperation. Look, the U.S. Administration is going through a process. Okay, there was another government in Israel which followed a different policy. A new government was voted into power in order to pursue peace in a different manner; and in my view more responsibly with a greater stress on security. An extremely rapid process of adjustment ensued. I received the impression — both from what President Clinton told me tete-a-tete as well as from his public statements — that no one will be able to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States. I guarantee you that this is the situation. [end recording]

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 11 July carries a recorded passage of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks in which he says: "I can tell you in general terms, without revealing the details, that we have received positive messages from a very large part of the Arab world, and this encourages me very much." Alluding to his remarks to Congress about the need to wean Israel from its dependence on U.S. aid, Netanyahu explained: "We will initiate the very beginning of this long-term process during our current term in office, which, as you know, is four years. Of course, this will take some time."]

Israel: Netanyahu Meets Arab Representatives in Washington

TA1107074396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Netanyahu held talks in Washington last night with Arab figures, including Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. and representatives from the Lebanese and Kuwaiti Embassies. The meeting was sponsored by a U.S. Middle East magazine. The prime minister told the gathering that if the Beirut government ensures security for northern Israeli settlements, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Israel: Netanyahu Seen as Unyielding in Address to Congress

TA1107103896 Tel Aviv YED'I'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 96 pp 3, 19

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "Lecture by a Tough Business Manager"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Not a soldier of the Peace Corps. Not the prophet of the New Middle East. In the U.S. Congress yesterday, Binyamin Netanyahu delivered the lecture of a tough business manager. It was a good, brainy lecture, well arranged, and well argued. None of his listeners shed a tear and it sent no shivers down my spine.

When Yitzhaq Rabin delivered his peace speech, history was sitting in the front row flapping its wings. During Netanyahu's law and order speech, history was sitting on a side bench, far from the podium, behind Sara Netanyahu. At best, it was a witness for the defense.

The congressmen applauded Netanyahu's speech a dozen times, at least six times during the economic bit which presented classic Republican views, and the Republicans are a solid majority in the house. The senators raved when Netanyahu made well-calculated and noncommittal remarks about Israel's economic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

independence and the need for the Israeli economy to stand on its own two feet. When? Not soon. "In the next four years we are going to begin the long-term process of gradually reducing the level of your generous economic assistance to Israel," Netanyahu told the congressmen (speaking at the National Press Club, Netanyahu was slightly more specific and spoke of an Israeli initiative to lower the extent of aid by the end of his first term as prime minister).

The message was cautious, but this was the first time in their political careers that U.S. senators heard an Israeli prime minister publicly stating that Israel wants to waive existing economic assistance. Netanyahu thus won them over, and not for a high price.

The congressmen were delighted when Netanyahu spoke about turning Israel into a free economy, reducing government involvement in the economy, and removing government supervision — "deregulation" in English. By the end of my term, he said, there will be a word in Hebrew for deregulation. The Americans, naturally, do not know that there is a Hebrew word for another economic term in Netanyahu's speech — privatization. We have a word, but hardly any privatization.

Here is a rating of Congress' enthusiasm over the Netanyahu speech: The willingness to waive economic aid came in first. This was followed, in order of showi by free enterprise, small government, war on terrorism, democratization, not dividing Jerusalem, and peace. Yes, peace too.

Netanyahu is fluent in English. He has no slips of the tongue, no sentimental glitches, no rage and anger, and no embarrassment. He does not drink alcohol, and did not let secrets out, not even in America. The Clinton administration has so far found him a tough customer. This was clearly visible in both public speeches and private discussions. With Netanyahu, there is no difference between the two: Whatever is said behind closed doors is no different from what is said in open arenas. What happens behind the scenes, happens on stage. And he loves the stage.

An analysis of Netanyahu's speeches to Congress and the Press Club, and his media interviews and briefings, leads to a clear conclusion: The new Israeli prime minister did not come to the United States to become flexible. The theory that said that the nays that Christopher heard when he visited Jerusalem would melt like snow once Netanyahu arrived in Washington was proven wrong. Netanyahu left the U.S. capital just as he came: He made no promises regarding the date of a meeting with 'Arafat; he did not give details regarding his concept of redeployment in Hebron; he did not even a hint of concessions on the Golan; he did not promise to lift the closure any time soon, although he did say he is "no closure freak," and that he is interested in "open and flourishing economic relations between Israel and the Palestinians" — but only when security allows, of course.

Binyamin Netanyahu gave the administration nothing, not even a crumb. Speaking to Congress, his right-wing home court, Netanyahu delivered an anti-Peres speech, steadfastly defending his positions — the same stands he brought to the United States and is now taking back to Jerusalem. Senator Netanyahu, a rising Republican star, certainly did not go on a political shopping spree here.

Netanyahu may be pressured by David Levi, but not by Bill Clinton. With Netanyahu at the wheel, the peace process will take different routes and move slower. America has already realized this.

Israel: Netanyahu To Meet Mubarak in Egypt 'Next Week'

TA1107100096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jul 96 p 19

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will hold a very brief visit to Egypt next week in order to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The details of the visit were finalized yesterday by officials from the prime minister's and the Egyptian president's respective bureaus. Sources in the prime minister's entourage reported yesterday that Netanyahu attributed great importance to his meeting with Mubarak in light of Egypt's special standing in the peace process.

The Israeli political echelon holds the view that since the political turnabout in Jerusalem, Egypt has played a negative role in organizing Arab efforts to coerce the Israeli Government into changing its policies through threats. At his meeting with Mubarak, Netanyahu intends to explain in detail Israel's plans for the continued implementation of the arrangements with the Palestinians as well as with regard to the negotiations with Syria.

It is worth noting that after Egypt, Netanyahu will visit Jordan. YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that the prime minister urged senior U.S. officials to extend additional economic aid to Jordan in order to bolster King Husayn's regime.

The prime minister's bureau failed in its attempts to arrange a stopover for Netanyahu in Morocco while returning to Israel from the United States. Officials at

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the court of King Hassan asserted that the conditions were still not ripe for Netanyahu to visit Morocco.

Israel: Ben-Elisar on Selection as Ambassador to U.S.

TA1007163296 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM Supplement) in Hebrew 10 Jul 96 p 6

[Interview with Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, ambassador-designate to Washington, by correspondent Menahem Rahat; place and date not given—first seven paragraphs are MA'ARIV introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar has spent the past 15 years as a Knesset member, seven of which he chaired the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee [FADC], not consecutively. Yet he has never had an executive post. Before the elections, Ben-Elisar had Netanyahu's explicit promise that he would be appointed minister, if and when. In the Likud primaries, Ben-Elisar landed the 15th slot, but after the merger with Tzomet and Gesher, he moved to the 23rd place on the joint list. He is considered a Netanyahu associate, which is why it was only natural that Netanyahu assigned him to be the chief writer of the Likud elections platform in 1996. He wrote the main ideological clauses regarding foreign and security affairs.

Netanyahu considered him a true ally, despite the fact that he had supported Beni Begin in 1992. On the eve of the last elections, Netanyahu reminded Ben-Elisar several times of his promise to give him a ministerial position, and "once, he was even very specific, although he did not name the portfolio I would be assigned," Ben-Elisar said.

To his great dismay, Ben-Elisar was never appointed minister. Netanyahu did not keep this promise, just as he failed to keep other promises made to Yehoshu'a Matza, Sha'ul 'Amor, and 'Ovadya 'Eli. Ben-Elisar, aged 64, saw how younger Likudniks like Dan Meridor, Beni Begin, Tzahi Hanegbi, and Limor Livnat got promoted while he, who was in the Knesset before them, since 1981, was left behind. He tried a shot at the Knesset FADC committee chair, but lost to Dan Tikhon. Two days ago, he was given appropriate compensation — the role of ambassador in Washington — the highest foreign service post.

Ben-Elisar was born in Poland in August 1932, and immigrated to Israel at the age of 10, when his family settled in Tel Aviv. He is married to Nitza 'Efroni, and they have one son. He served with the defense establishment until 1965, and then studied political science and international law at the University of Paris, and completed his doctorate in political science and history at the University of Geneva.

He returned to Israel in 1970. He was elected member of the Herut Central Committee in its 10th convention, and later served as the movement's spokesman, head of its information department, and later the Secretariat and the Executive Committee. In 1988, he was elected chairman of Herut-Revisionist-Zionists International and served in that post until 1991.

When the Likud took power in 1977, then Prime Minister Menahem Begin appointed him director general of the Prime Minister's Office, a post he kept until 1980. In November 1977, he was in charge of the state reception for Egyptian President al-Sadat, in December 1977 he was sent to Cairo as head of the first Israeli delegation to Egypt, and in 1980 he was appointed Israel's first ambassador there. In 1981 he returned, and was elected member of the 10th Knesset; in 1982, he was elected chairman of the Knesset FADC, stayed on the job until 1984, and again held the position between 1988-1992.

A Washington post is the top ambition for many public officials. Furthermore, this role almost always carries a promise of a senior political post in the future. As a matter of fact, according to Ben-Elisar, a week ago Netanyahu offered him the post of the UN ambassador, which Ben-Elisar totally refused. In that conversation, Netanyahu told Ben-Elisar: "I have two offers, one is a post in New York, the other in Washington." Ben-Elisar answered: "I am not interested in the UN. I will consider Washington seriously."

[Rahat] Why did you not answer immediately?

[Ben-Elisar] It was not a specific discussion. He did not say: Eli, I can give you the UN or Washington; make your choice.

[Rahat] You are considered a hawk. Will you go to Washington as one?

[Ben-Elisar] I follow Jabotinsky's teachings, and anyone familiar with them will know what I mean. I consider myself a revisionist, and I believe I am a moderate person.

[Rahat] Are you a pragmatist?

[Ben-Elisar] This is not the right word. I believe in our right, but I cannot ignore reality.

[Rahat] What do you mean by right?

[Ben-Elisar] Right means that the Jewish nation owns all of Eretz Yisra'el. On the other hand, I do not ignore reality.

[Rahat] Some say this reality leads to a Palestinian state?

[Ben-Elisar] Absolutely not. I can definitely say that had we been in power, we would not have brought 'Arafat

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

from Tunis to Eretz Yisra'el. But he was brought over, he is here, and we cannot send him back there today. This is how I see reality.

[Rahat] If your phone rings in Washington and your secretary tells you 'Arafat is on the line, how will you react?

[Ben-Elisar] The secretary will probably take a message, tell him I will return the call, and tell me that, among others, the man you mentioned called (Ben-Elisar avoids mentioning the name — M.R.), then I will decide what to do.

[Rahat] And what will the decision be?

[Ben-Elisar] Why should Israel's ambassador in Washington talk to 'Arafat? There is a government in Israel. Let it decide.

[Rahat] During the time of the Shamir government, before Oslo, you answered a similar question saying "I would send him to hell."

[Ben-Elisar] I cannot speak like that as an ambassador; as a Knesset member, I could.

[Rahat] In the past, you maintained that "Washington is interested in having the intifadah continue so that it could go on with its political initiative." Does this mean that you felt that Washington believes that the intifadah will drive Israel into making hard concessions? Do you still believe this?

[Ben-Elisar] I would definitely not say that. I could have been exaggerating at the time.

[Rahat] What do you think Washington wants today? To drive Israel back to the 1967 lines?

[Ben-Elisar] No. I believe that Washington will be willing to accept a situation in which we more or less agree with the Palestinians. The United States understands our difficulties and is sensitive to them. Today, the Americans know how to read us extremely well, with all past residues and the Israeli people's difficult history. They know that the people of Israel will not risk their existence. I do not believe they want to pressure us. They also know it does not help. This is an extensive and deep relationship, and I believe that everything in it will be conducted on the basis of shared will.

[Rahat] What do you think is the U.S. view of Syria and its part in the process?

[Ben-Elisar] They know that Syria is behind Hizballah and that Hizballah cannot operate without Syrian consent. They have not yet eliminated Syria from the list of terror-supporting countries. They know that Syria is cooperating with Iran, and I do not have to tell you how the Americans feel about Iran. So I feel that, from an American point of view, we have much space in which to maneuver on the Israeli-Syrian issue.

[Rahat] Do you believe the United States still is Israel's most faithful ally, and that it will remain that after hearing several of Netanyahu's negative answers?

[Ben-Elisar] Absolutely. The two countries have a deep and intimate relationship.

[Rahat] How do you explain the fact that young Likud members were made ministers, while you were left out?

[Ben-Elisar] I do not want to judge my friends now. I will not start settling accounts with Shamir, who started this (not appointing Ben-Elisar a minister, M.R.). Incidentally, all the so-called "princes" — Meridor, Begin, and Landau — voted for me as Knesset speaker. Who torpedoed the move? Forget it; let us not get into that. The time for that will come.

[Rahat] Will we have to wait for your next book?

[Ben-Elisar] This would be a good opportuni?y. [end Ben-Elisar]

Ben-Elisar published three books: "The Israeli-Arab War" (with Ze'ev Schiff of HA'ARETZ) "The Destruction Connection" (on the Third Reich's foreign policy and the Jews) and "No More War" (on his term as ambassador in Egypt). He expresses his views in the books. We can learn about his basic concept regarding additional Israeli concessions from the last paragraph of "No More War":

"After paying with the entire Sinai peninsula, Israel's only choice is to firmly hold on to Jerusalem, the Golan, Samaria, and Judaea — the cradle of its nationality and culture and the future of its security — while granting autonomy to the Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria. A government that fails to understand this basic fact of life will be jeopardizing 100 years of Zionist achievements — which is just what the Arabs would like to see — and perhaps the very existence of the State of Israel."

Israel: Amb. Indyk Said To 'Profit' From Ben-Elisar's Appointment

TA1107111596 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 96 p B3

[Article by Amnon Barzilay from the "I Saw, I Heard" column: "Netanyahu Surrendered Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon on 8 July, several hours before the appointment of Dr. Eliyahu Ben-Elisar as Israel's ambassador to the United States was published, Netanyahu summoned Zalman Shoval to his office to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

tell him that a decision had been made. Ben-Elisar, who served as the Likud's Political Committee chairman for about three years, is not a Netanyahu man. He was not invited to attend the secret political consultations Netanyahu held with his close associates. Ben-Elisar learned of Netanyahu's political stands from media reports. On the other hand, Shoval, former ambassador to the United States, was Netanyahu's right-hand man during the same period (while serving on the Political Committee). "My job," Shoval once said, "was to present Likud policy to other countries." Netanyahu also made Dr. Dore Gold part of his political team.

Netanyahu wanted Shoval, whose image is relatively moderate, in Washington. But Foreign Minister David Levi did not forget how during the two years before the government changed hands and during his first term as foreign minister, then Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Shoval made him feel out of the picture. When Shoval learned that Levi was against his appointment, he suggested that Moshe Arens be offered the U.S. post. This, however, could never happen while David Levi is in the Foreign Ministry.

Netanyahu's circles are not hiding their disappointment with Ben-Elisar's appointment. It is seen as yet another surrender by the prime minister. The associates view the fact that Ben-Elisar was given this sensitive role at a time that could be crucial as an irresponsible move by Netanyahu. One of the assessments made last week was that Shoval and Dr. Gold, and perhaps David 'Ivri — if he accepts the chair of the National Security Council — will perform special missions for Netanyahu on the Washington-Jerusalem track.

As a result of this appointment, which was forced on Netanyahu, the center of activity will move from Israel's Embassy in Washington to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The fact that Professor Itamar Rabinovich was personally appointed by Yitzhaq Rabin and had his full confidence helped establish his status vis-a-vis the U.S. Administration. The person who will mainly profit from Ben-Elisar's appointment is, therefore, U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk, who — like Rabinovich under Labor's government — enjoys U.S. President Bill Clinton's full confidence.

Israel: Likud Knesset Faction Harshly Criticizes Economic Program

TA1007171396 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Likud Knesset faction held a meeting this morning in which harsh criticism was leveled at the new economic program and at Finance Minister Dan Meridor. This program absolutely contradicts the party's social policy, faction members said. Some of them have already announced that they will vote against it when it is presented to the Knesset. Our Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Vismonsky] We have already heard opposition from other quarters of the Likud to the economic program, but the Likud Knesset faction met today for the first time since it was approved by the cabinet. Faction members did not mince their words when referring to the finance minister, especially when the cameras were in action. It is inconceivable that the Likud's entire social policy should disappear within two weeks, said Me'ir Shitrit, while Sha'ul 'Amor suggested that the faction formulate an alternative program to that of the government. [passage omitted]

Likud's partners, Gesher and Tzomet, voiced most of the criticism against the program. If it is not amended and it continues to hurt the weaker strata I will not support the program, said Hayim Dayan of Tzomet, seconded by Maxim Levi of Gesher. [passage omitted]

The finance minister explained that he is prepared to make changes. The Knesset is not a rubber stamp, and we will conduct a dialogue, he said. Meridor referred to the chief of staff's criticism about the cut in the defense budget yesterday to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, saying he should not have said what he did.

Israel: Netanyahu Rules IDF Brass Outside 'Political Negotiations'

TA1107094796 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Aluf Ben from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has decided that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers will no longer participate in the political negotiations. From now on, the peace talks will be handled exclusively by civilians. This was reported yesterday by senior sources in the prime minister's entourage. According to the sources, Netanyahu prefers not to entrust political negotiations to military personnel. In the past, he has expressed reservations about the participation of IDF officers in the peace talks due to the difficulty in differentiating between holding political negotiations and actual involvement in politics. Nor did Netanyahu include the chief of staff or other senior officers in consultations on purely political issues or in the preparations for the prime minister's visit to Washington.

The composition of the joint committee for the war against terrorism was also discussed during Netanyahu's talks with U.S. officials. The committee is slated to start

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

work this month. Netanyahu said he wants to appoint Israel's new ambassador in Washington, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, to head the committee. After Netanyahu was reminded that the agreement referred to a professional forum and that some of the committee meetings will be held in Israel, the prime minister said he would consider nominating a security expert in addition to the ambassador.

Former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who signed the agreement on the war against terrorism when he visited the United States more than two months ago, wanted to appoint either 'Ami Ayalon, a retired major general and current head of the Shin Bet, or Brigadier General Yig'al Pressler, the prime minister's counterterrorism adviser, to the post. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF Disperses Palestinian Workers Trying To Crash Roadblock

TA1107101696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, several dozen Palestinian workers who do not have permits to work in Israel demonstrated against the closure on the territories near an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock in the Tulkarm area. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the IDF used tear gas to disperse the protesters when they attempted to force their way through the IDF roadblock and into Israel. An IDF spokesman said that he was investigating the reports.

Israel: IDF Confirms Civilians Hit by SLA Fire in Lebanon

TA1007133596 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 96 p A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has confirmed that several Lebanese civilians were wounded yesterday by SLA [South Lebanese Army] gunfire.

IDF sources said a debriefing conducted by the Northern Command shows that SLA soldiers in an outpost in the 'Ali Tahir range in the eastern sector of the security zone spotted a group of people moving in an uninhabited area where there is usually no movement. Thinking them to be Hizballah men, the SLA soldiers opened fire at them, hitting Lebanese civilians.

IDF sources emphasized that the area is usually used by Hizballah men to fire at SLA positions. According to the sources, the shooting in no way constitutes a violation of the understandings reached after Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Lebanese reports noted that one of the civilian victims was a woman.

Israel: Former Minister Aloni Criticizes Netanyahu Peace Policies

NC1107085696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Shulamit Aloni, former Israeli minister of communications, science, and the arts and one of the leading members of the Meretz Party, has denounced the abnormal Likud government position alleging that it wants peace for peace.

She said Israel is now the only country to insist on a role as a colonialist country usurping the rights and territory of others and oppressing and torturing other peoples.

In statements to AL-AHRAM published today, Aloni stressed the need to end Israeli colonialism and the occupation of others' land. She said it was inevitable.

She warned that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's colonialist policies will lead to Israel's collapse, a return to international isolation, and isolation in the Arab world in a more violent way. She pointed out that Israel will be threatened as a result of Netanyahu's policies.

Aloni said she confronted Netanyahu with the truth regarding the inevitability of returning the occupied Golan Heights to Syria and stopping Israel's usurpation of that area. She added that the faster the Golan Heights are returned, the less will be Israel's moral and political losses. She said that peace is the best and strongest guarantee for Israel's security.

Aloni expressed her regret that many people inside Israel do not agree with her on this stance. She pointed out that the majority of Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights were transformed from supporters of the Labor Party before the recent elections to supporters of Netanyahu, thus enabling him to win the elections. She said: Regrettably, Netanyahu is working on keeping this new support by the settlers of the Golan Heights.

Asked about her expectations for the region should Netanyahu continue his political arrogance, as the Arabs see it, Shulamit Aloni told AL-AHRAM that Netanyahu must choose between his arrogance and establishing healthy relations with the Arab countries based on restoring rights to their legitimate owners. But Aloni expressed her doubts that Netanyahu will abandon his arrogance and stubbornness.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Aloni says she believes that the only solution and remaining hope lies in putting pressure on this man and making him feel economic pressure. She asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to put extreme pressure on Netanyahu to convince him to continue the peace process on the land-for-peace principle.

Aloni described Netanyahu as a man of riddles for many Israelis, including herself.

On her analysis of the prime minister's political personality, she said his personal ambitions come before his national ambitions. She said: I hope this does not lead to the destruction of Israel. She said Israeli society has for some time been leaning toward extremism. She described this society as one suffering extreme and severe divisions. She expressed her hope that the liberal parties, such as Meretz and Labor, will not take a negative stand as spectators only. Such a stand will lead to extremely dangerous results, as she described them.

Aloni said in her statements to the newspaper AL-AHRAM that the religiously extremist Likud government will deliberately change education policies so that Israel becomes more or less a center for preaching and Jewish teachings, away from open-minded international peace education. She added that the Likud will work on distinguishing between the educational rights of the Israeli Arabs and those of the Jews. Education will become purely Jewish religion—for the Jews alone, most of the time.

Aloni did not rule out that Netanyahu discussed with U.S. President Clinton the plan for Israel's unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon. Withdrawal would not be to deal a blow to the Lebanese-Syrian negotiating track, but to avoid the high losses the Israeli occupation is incurring there from the Lebanese Resistance.

Asked about the recent crisis created with Egypt, Aloni admitted that Israel is partially behind the missiles issue. But she also affirmed every state's right to secure itself in the region in the way it believes is right, as well as the right of every country to make an issue about this.

Aloni ruled out that Israel created this issue because of Egypt's stance on the Netanyahu government positions. The real reason is Egypt's firm and strong stance opposing the Israeli nuclear arsenal.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Hizballah Proposes Prisoner Swap; Arad Fate Unknown

NC1007171496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has repeated his proposal to exchange 17 members of Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army] detained by Hizballah for more than 200 Lebanese nationals held at al-Khiyam prison camp.

Qasim announced the release of two members of Lahd's force after a two and a half year detention.

Speaking at a news conference, Qasim remarked that Israel does not care about the fate of captured members of Lahd's forces or the fate of the remains of two Israeli soldiers in Hizballah's custody. All that Israel cares about, Qasim noted, is the fate of the airman Ron Arad about whom Hizballah knows nothing.

Lebanon: Hizballah Releases 2 SLA Prisoners, Ready To Swap Others

NC1007162196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 10 Jul (MENA)—Hizballah announced a new initiative today regarding the Lebanese detainees held in Israeli prisons. The initiative provides for the release of 17 members of the pro-Israel South Lebanese Army [SLA] militia detained by Hizballah in return for the release of 200 Lebanese detainees from al-Khiyam prison in the occupied border strip in south Lebanon.

During a news conference today, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim said that his party released two SLA members today.

This initiative is a sign of the party's good intentions and its seriousness in resolving the problem of the Lebanese prisoners in Israeli prisons.

Qasim urged international humanitarian organizations to endeavor to release the sick Lebanese prisoners in Israeli prisons.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official on Netanyahu's Proposals, Resistance

NC1007174596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 10 Jul (MENA) — 'Ammar al-Musawi, member of Hizballah's political council, has rejected Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's terms to halt Hizballah's activity and the resistance's military operations in southern Lebanon as a key condition to resume negotiations with Syria, describing them as utterly unacceptable conditions.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Beirut, al-Musawi said the Lebanese resistance will not lay down its arms before Israel's occupation of all Lebanese territories is ended. He emphasized that Netanyahu's statement yesterday shows that he does not want peace and that he does not want to resume negotiations or activate the settlement process. Rather he seems adamant about his three no's, which he announced after he came to power, al-Musawi added.

Al-Musawi referred to the news conference held at the White House yesterday between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He said Netanyahu's call to halt the resistance activity prepares the ground to plan a major hostile action against southern Lebanon. He added that last April's understanding that Hizballah signed with Israel is a recognition of the Lebanese resistance's right to confront occupation inside the Lebanese land and that the resistance's existence is linked to ending that occupation.

Al-Musawi, member of the Hizballah political council, expressed his belief that all of Netanyahu's proposals at his news conference with Clinton yesterday will return things to square one and will further complicate the peace process, something that might threaten escalated acts of violence in the region.

He said Netanyahu wants to fully subjugate the Arabs to Israel's conditions through his concept of achieving security for Israel. Al-Musawi added that the aim of Netanyahu's visit to Washington is to promote these ideas at a time when the U.S. Administration seems unable to pressure Israel for electoral reasons.

Al-Musawi commented on the possibility of forming a security committee to supervise the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. He expressed his belief that U.S. officials still have a desire to consolidate a kind of understanding lessening the prospects of a military confrontation in southern Lebanon.

He added that Netanyahu is trying to exceed the ceiling of this understanding and absolve Israel of its commitment to this agreement.

Al-Musawi warned that the alternative, if this understanding is blown up, will be escalated tension in southern Lebanon that could lead to a heated military confrontation. He added that this alternative will not be in Israel's interest because it will enter an uncalculated confrontation open to all possibilities.

Al-Musawi asserted the Islamic Resistance's capability of response and confrontation in any attempt to escalate

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

attacks on Lebanese territories, saying it will be a perfect ability and that we have all the resources for it.

Commenting on Hizballah-Syria contacts, he said contacts and consultations between the party and Syrian officials are continuous in order to assess developments in the security and military situation in the region.

He said the party in recent days received advice from certain parties to be patient and focus on calm so as not to provoke Netanyahu and to give him an opportunity until he meets the U.S. President. He added: We were not surprised by the Israeli conditions that Netanyahu proposed yesterday. We believe that this is an unpractical offer because the resistance has every right and legitimacy to continue facing the Israeli occupation.

The Hizballah official denounced current U.S. and Israeli pressures on Syria to halt resistance operations behind the slogans of confronting violence and terrorism in the region.

Al-Musawi said these pressures represent an exposed attempt to cover up Netanyahu's political agenda of noncommittal to implementing the resolutions of the Madrid peace conference, the principle of land for peace, and accords signed with the Palestinian Authority and of creating an international climate against Syria and the Lebanese resistance.

The Hizballah official dismissed Israeli army Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahaq's charges that Hizballah has received Iranian weapons. He noted that these charges, in addition to the attempt to implicate Syria in the Dhahran explosion, is part of the process of continuous pressure against Syria.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Paper Rejects Charges, Accuses Mosad of al-Khubar Explosion

JN1007162296 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 10 Jul (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH says those who follow the fabricated hostile campaign against Syria, in which charges are made against it to distort its reputation, are aware that the main criterion used in escalating or cooling down the charges is linked to several considerations and interests, headed by Israel's interest. This is because Israel has found itself — in the wake of the election of Netanyahu — in a position that circumvents peace and shackles its parties in preparation for assaulting it and aborting all its options.

In an article today by Fayiz al-Sayigh, director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, the paper says that the last of the dirty campaigns appeared to lack the simplest skills and considerations which the plotters used to follow. The charges they leveled lack any acceptable production or reasonable scenario; they also lack the technical touch of the experts whom the world admits are talented in making charges and passing verdicts.

The paper says: Therefore, the recent charges are self-defeating and are rejected by logic, reason, and common sense. All justifications, which the plotters tirelessly worked to present as evidence, argue that even those who breathe Syria's air, read about its civilizati feel the kindness of its people, or speak about what they see, will be the target of these charges so long as the Israeli standard controls the work of those who plotted this nonsense.

The paper adds: We all remember the talk about the Middle Eastern features of the American terrorist who blew up the Oklahoma building. However, when it became clear that the terrorist carried their nationality, they remained dead silent. We, the Arabs, were lucky that the terrorist had not visited our countries or region and had not received training in this area.

AL-THAWRAH said: This terrorism fad is developing with the development of the aggressive Israeli policies. The charges of terrorism and lists of terrorists are prepared in advance, and even the denial of the victim, which they have chosen according to advance planning, will be useless. The professional perpetrator is known to the entire world, because the crime itself and its circumstances lead to the real perpetrator, and because only the one who benefits from terrorism is capable of carrying it out.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Who stands to benefit from such an act at such a time? And who has access to such tools under these circumstances? AL-THAWRAH says: They do not want to answer these logical questions because the clear answer is: The Mosad. Who dares to admit this and who dares to say this?

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The record is full, the evidence is abundant, and the victims, including Jews and Americans, are many. The victims are crying: It is the Mosad, and the recent explosion in al-Khubar will not be the last.

Syria: Radio Reports Netanyahu's U.S. Congress Speech

JN1007200296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu renewed his hardline position which rejects withdrawal from occupied Jerusalem. He said Jerusalem will never be divided.

Netanyahu ignored the bases and principles of the peace process and the Madrid terms of reference. He said he is ready to begin negotiations, but he did not refer to the land-for-peace principle.

Within the context of circumventing the international terms of reference, Netanyahu said peace should be based on what he called the pillars of Israeli security arrangements. He added that Israel is ready to start negotiations with the Palestinians on a final settlement, but he did not say anything about redeployment in Hebron or withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

In his speech, Netanyahu reiterated that peace depends on basic pillars, and that Israel's security is the first pillar, for which there is no substitute. He added that pursuing peace should be accompanied by efforts to guarantee Israel's security.

Netanyahu urged the United States to lead an international effort to prevent some countries from possessing weapons, at the same ignoring Israel's nuclear arsenal. He said practical steps should be taken and a front formed to confront the nuclear threat successfully. He said that he insists on the Jews' right to live everywhere in what he called the land of Israel, and their right to live anywhere in the world.

Concluding his speech, Netanyahu thanked the United States for the generous assistance it provides to Israel.

Meanwhile, the Israeli prime minister totally rejected a U.S. request to halt settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli newspapers quoted Netanyahu's aides as saying that the Israeli prime minister came under pressure from President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to pledge to freeze settlement construction. Netanyahu said: I do not think anyone expects from us any less than what the Labor government accomplished. He added that under the Labor government settlements were intensified and the number of settlers increased from 96,000 to 145,000.

Syria: Netanyahu's 'Interpretation' of Peace Principles Censured

JN1007142796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1143 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Following his talks with President Clinton at the White House yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said that he has his own interpretation of the land-for-peace principle and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He went beyond this when he claimed that Israel conceded fundamental concessions to the Arabs on all fronts. Although he did not elaborate on this, he asked: Is it fair to ask Israel to give 100 percent, while the Arabs give nothing? Will there be safe borders within the 1967 borders?

Here, Netanyahu's own interpretation becomes clear. This interpretation contradicts international logic. However, it represents the Torah tenets, which claim that the land of Israel extends from the Nile to the Euphrates, and that the concessions made by Israel on all fronts was at the expense of the alleged Torah land.

According to Netanyahu's interpretation there is no Israeli occupation of the Golan, southern Lebanon or the rest of the occupied land, including Jerusalem. Likewise, the Arabs have no usurped rights and Israel alone is the party that makes concessions at the expense of its Torah land. At this point, Netanyahu criticized Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, because they, according to his own interpretation, stipulate that Israel should give up the land in return for having secure and recognized borders.

The Israeli prime minister is deliberately ignoring the content of Resolution 242, which stipulates the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' land through force. He asked: Will there be secure borders within the 1967 borders? He answered: We are thinking in a different way. This means that he rejects renouncing the land Israel occupied in 1967, because he thinks that relinquishing this land will threaten Israel's security, even if it is recognized as part of accomplishing peace. This is how Netanyahu presented his policy in Washington — a policy which is simply a repeat of his electoral platform and his cabinet's policy statement which he presented to the Knesset. Netanyahu summed up this statement in the following points:

1. His government's mission is to complete the implementation of the Zionist Torah plan.

2. The peace he proposes aims to safeguard Israel's security according to his motto: Security for peace.

3. There will be no withdrawal from the Golan, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip. Jerusalem will not be divided.

The question that should be raised now is: Where does the platform of the Israeli right wing government stand vis-a-vis the U.S. initiative, which considered the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 the basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region according to the land-for-peace principle. Furthermore, is the Israeli position identical with that of the Arabs, who recognized the existence of Israel in the region, at a time when the latter continues to cling to the occupied Arab territories and considers Jerusalem its eternal capital? The answer is that Netanyahu's platform has no connection with the U.S. initiative, the terms of reference of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Arabs' position that peace is their strategic option. Netanyahu's platform contradicts all of this. Here lies the danger it poses to the peace process and the course of events in the region, unless this hostile and expansionist trend is besieged and curbed, particularly by the party that sponsors the peace process and asserts its commitment to continuing its efforts in this regard.

Syria: Papers Discuss Netanyahu's U.S. Visit, Statements

JN1107085596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 11 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial "Appeasing the Aggressor Does Not Bring Peace," AL-BA'TH discusses Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington and warns against appeasing him. The paper stresses that it is impossible to appease the aggressor, who violates international legitimacy. It is also impossible to find a common ground between his designs and this legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH says: There must be principles to govern relations among the world community from which no one should deviate. Otherwise, there will be dangerous chaos in which rights and laws are obliterated, the law

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of the jungle prevails, and might reigns supreme over rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: The clear fact which everyone knows and which must not forgotten by anybody, even the Americans, is that Israel is an aggressor state which occupied the territory of others and defied international legitimacy and its resolutions that pertain to returning this territory. Israel must withdraw and acknowledge the national and natural rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The paper says: This is the main substance in any solution or settlement. Any delay in realizing the essence of this fact — withdrawal from the occupied territory — means a provocation against the international community, a continuation of aggression, and keeping the hotbeds of tension.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Appeasing and tolerating the aggressor — rewarding him for his crimes; and praising his statements, programs, plans, and designs on Jerusalem and the settlements, and on his denial of rights, violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, and rejection of withdrawal — goes beyond the question of U.S. bias for Israel; it means that the U.S. Administration is fully responsible for the consequences, including the collapse of the peace process, the region's return to the cycle of escalation and tension, and the dangers of playing with fire. Appeasing the aggressor, the arrogant, and the obsessed with power have always exacerbated the situation and failed to bring peace, security, or stability.

Under the headline "Facts That Cannot Wait," AL-THAWRAH urges a clear U.S. position to confirm that the United States is determined to shoulder its international responsibility, defend its initiative, and underline its commitment, both in word and deed, to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, based on international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the Madrid Conference terms of reference.

AL-THAWRAH says: Regardless of how difficult the conditions may be, in terms of the political extortion Netanyahu is exercising, the United States' real interest and the legitimate considerations of the will of the world community must prevail. Efforts must be pooled to cool the many hotheads in Netanyahu's government. The Israeli position, which is now taking its full dimensions in terms of its hostility toward peace and rejection of its terms of reference and principles, which are based on the land-for-peace formula, is harming U.S. credibility. U.S. credibility is now undergoing a real test.

AL-THAWRAH says: The United States can either be faithful to its peace commitments and defend its initiative, or take a biased position in favor of Israel, even when its officials seek to deal a blow to peace and block its path.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The doors to peace will remain open if the U.S. Administration works on bringing Netanyahu's government to terms with the facts of peace. It is very dangerous for Netanyahu to think that he can wager on security to make the Arabs adapt to his arguments at the expense of their territory, rights, and dignity. The facts of peace cannot be tampered with, nor can they be delayed.

Syria: Al-Shar'—Netanyahu Policy Will 'Close Door Completely'

MM1107093796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jul 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Sulayman Nimr: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-HAYAH: Arab Move To Confront Netanyahu's Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said yesterday that moves and contacts will be made on the Arab and international stages within the next weeks to confront the Israeli Government's extremist policies and contempt for the foundations of the peace process.

In the first Syrian reaction to the results of the talks held in Washington between Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Clinton, al-Shar' told AL-HAYAH in Riyadh that he "was not surprised by the results of the talks between Netanyahu and the U.S. President in Washington, because we had not expected the Israeli prime minister to change his government's clear policies of rejecting the foundations on the basis of which the peace process was launched."

Asked about the results of Netanyahu's talks with President Clinton, he said: "The Israeli prime minister was clear in his statements on the eve of his travel to the United States. He said that the Arabs must accept the fait accompli, and he pledged to expand settlement in the Golan and in the occupied Arab territories."

Asked about the position the Arabs are expected to take, the Syrian foreign minister said: "The Arab position was adopted unanimously through the Cairo summit resolutions. What is required now is an Arab and international move to bring an end to the Israeli Government's extremist policy, because this policy is going to close the door completely to the achievement of peace in the region."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He pointed out that he had agreed with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to make a move in coordination and conjunction with Egypt to confront the new challenges. He stressed the importance of the meetings which will be held in Muscat Saturday [13 July], the day after tomorrow, by the foreign ministers of the Damascus declaration states. [passage omitted]

Syria: Paper Says Netanyahu's Statements Reflect 'Arrogance'

JN1107101596 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 11 Jul (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN today stresses that Netanyahu's political shows in Washington reflected Israel's arrogance and rejection of the principles of the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In an article from the "Opinion" column, the paper says: These political shows coincided with military shows within the territory of the Palestinian limited self-rule authority and on the Lebanese territory, in defiance of the international community's will, the principles of the peace process launched in Madrid, and the U.S. initiative in that regard.

The paper says that the Netanyahu government's political and military escalation will bring serious threats to the region once again. This, the paper adds, requires a united Arab position to deny the Israelis the opportunity to break the links of Arab solidarity that emerged in the Cairo summit.

Concluding its column, TISHRIN says: The statements Netanyahu has made since his election campaign until his talks in Washington provide a clear indication of the Israeli aggressive policy. They also display Israeli preparations for a new aggression against south Lebanon which will provide an important fruit for Netanyahu's talks in Washington and a new gauge of the U.S. position toward the new Likud policy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Urges Taleban Not To Insist on Fighting

LD1007205396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the provisional government, explained government policy to correspondents and answered their questions. The text of the government policy was broadcast last night by Radio-TV.

Prior to this conference, Brother Hekmatyar spoke about government policy at a meeting of deputy ministers and heads of ministerial departments held at the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The prime minister said that bribery should not take place in departments and that tasks should be carried out carefully and speedily.

Brother Hekmatyar said that all private estates which are under government security or in the hands of other individuals must be returned to the legal owners within a month. Police departments alone have the right to follow the accused and arrest them on the basis of a formal court order.

The prime minister asked various groups not to render decisions against individuals or run prisons for their formations.

After today's meeting, Brother Hekmatyar took part in a news conference and answered questions on government policy raised by domestic and foreign correspondents.

The prime minister stressed: If the Taleban do not give up fighting we will be compelled to stand up for the defense of Kabul City. We want to resolve our problems with the Taleban through understanding, hence they should not insist on fighting. However, If they do insist on fighting, we will have to take serious action in order to prevent their attacks.

He called on the people in Maydan and Lowgar not to allow the Taleban to launch rocket attacks on Kabul from these areas.

In reply to a question about his journey to Bamian and Mazar-e Sharif and about other groups joining the peace process, Brother Hekmatyar said:

[Begin Hekmatyar recording from poor reception] Regarding the issue of which one of the other groups will join the peace process, we have enormous hopes. Talks are going on. (?I am confident of progress.) In this connection, too, we have to wait and see which group will join the process first [words indistinct]. I hope in the near future to hear of a new and pleasant development. Nevertheless, regarding the Coordination Council, I can assure you that [words indistinct]. God willing, these journeys to Bamian and to the north will take place in the near future. I must return to Kabul from there, together with Jonbesh [referring to Dostam]. The Salang highway can thus be opened and Dostam can announce his decision to join this provisional government. [end recording]

Afghanistan: Government Forces Attack Taleban Positions in Kabul Area

LD1007152196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in a retaliatory attack on the positions and centers of the totalitarian Taleban group in the south of Kabul, have inflicted heavy losses of life and material on the group.

According to reports received by Radio Message of Freedom, some centers and positions of the Taleban group around Kabul have been shelled by the Islamic State of Afghanistan's forces. As a result of this shelling, dozens of the group's men were killed or injured.

As a result of this attack, which took place in response to rocket attacks on various residential areas of Kabul, several of the Taleban's motor vehicles on one of the hills south of Kabul were destroyed.

The report adds that as a result of rocket attacks on the residential areas of Kabul city by the Taleban group, over 90 people were killed and [word indistinct] were injured during the past 10 days.

India

India: Delhi Concerned Over M-11 Missile Deployment by Pakistan

BK1107093296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government says it has seen press reports regarding the deployment of nuclear-capable M-11 missiles by Pakistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that New Delhi is aware of the acquisition of these missiles and considered it a matter of great concern. He said though India has not lodged any protest with Pakistan in this regard, New Delhi is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguarding its security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India: Experts—Resist Pressures on CTBT for National Security

BK1007115296 Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jul 96 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "India must resist various pressures being brought on it to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the interests of its national security," Mr. R.L. Bhatia, former Minister for External Affairs, said here today.

Inaugurating a one-day seminar on "Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty," organised by the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) at Sapru House, Mr. Bhatia said the nuclear powers were hell bent on imposing their decisions on India to maintain their monopoly. "The compromise plan being offered by the CTBT conference does not meet our security requirements," he stated.

Reasserting India's position on the issue, Mr. Bhatia said India was for total disarmament. "Till the moment that nuclear powers all over the world settle for total disarmament, India must keep its various options open as it was only abolition of nuclear weapons in totality that was in the interest of world security" he remarked.

Mr. S.K. Singh, political commentator, in his keynote address, said the CTBT issue had been tied up with the issue of disarmament since 1954. "Patronage of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity. India must keep in focus its security requirements within the growing Russia-China axis and the China-Pakistan collaboration," he stated.

In his incisive analysis, Mr. Jagjit Singh, director, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, said disarmament must be total and can never be selective which will defeat its purpose. "India's stand throughout has been that the CTBT must be a part of nuclear disarmament. This in fact was the mandate of the Geneva conference — nonproliferation in all aspects to further the process of disarmament."

In his presidential address, Mr. Harcharan Singh Josh, president, ICWA, said CTBT was nothing but NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] in a different guise. "It is both an unequal and a discriminatory treaty which is unacceptable to India as it is sure to accentuate the hegemony of the nuclear powers," he stated.

Prof. Amalendu Guha, deputy chairman, Planning Commission, said that India must have an effective foreign policy to lead Asia towards peace. Prof Hingorani, former dean, Patna University, emphasized the fact that it was on principle that India did not sign the NPT. "CTBT in its present form is only an extension of it," he stated.

Prof. Parmal Das of Jawaharlal Nehru University said that as India claimed that it was following the Gandhian principle of non-violence, it should forego the nuclear option. He also felt that CTBT was nothing but NPT in a different form and in a different world scenario.

Mr. K.L. Dalal said India must have clear views on what exercising nuclear option would mean. "Nuclear option is a very wide term encompassing the constant upgradation efforts that go on in this regard as well as the delivery system, not to mention the disposal of nuclear waste."

At the end, it was unanimously resolved that India must judge the impact of remaining out of the CTBT and in particular, the impact it would have on India's ambition of becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It must also be gauged what will be the impact of CTBT on India's nuclear energy development, it was felt.

India: Article Defends Country's Refusal To Sign CTBT Proposal

BK1007021896 Delhi HINDUSTAN in Hindi 6 Jul 96 p 7

[Article by unattributed correspondent based on interview with Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute of Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis: "The CTBT is Discriminatory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] That the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiations would fail was decided on the day the conference for this treaty started in Geneva. This is because the treaty is blatantly discriminatory and highly damaging to countries such as India. Had we accepted the proposal for the treaty, our whole security edifice would have crumbled because not only are we surrounded by countries with a nuclear capability, but, of these, three already possess deadly nuclear weapons. Pakistan is not only a country with a nuclear capability, it already has nuclear weapons. This is no more a secret. Although China and Pakistan have repeatedly denied indulging in the sale and purchase of ballistic missiles equipped with nuclear warheads, there is conclusive evidence to show that very recently China sold M-11 missiles to Pakistan. This fact is not only confirmed by a CIA report, which the U.S. Administration is trying to suppress to serve its own selfish interest, it is also confirmed by Pakistani Government documents relating to the top U.S. administrative body, the Senate. In August 1993 the then foreign minister of Pakistan informed the senators while addressing their gathering that his country had bought M-11 missiles in order to tackle the threat to its external security. It is now no more a moot point that Pakistanis are in possession of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ballistic missiles equipped with nuclear warheads. Another of our neighbors, China, is one of the five recognized nuclear powers in the world. There is no room for doubt whatever about China being a nuclear power possessing deadly nuclear weapons. It is surprising that while putting pressures on us to sign the CTBT, the United States has conveniently overlooked the threat to our external security from China. China has a huge nuclear stockpile and despite its sweet diplomatic talk and tongue-in-cheek assertions, we simply cannot rely on a Chinese assurance not to use its weapons owing to its poor record concerning its nuclear promises. Even though it is one of the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, not only is it continuing to conduct nuclear tests, it has also defiantly declared its intention of conducting its biggest nuclear test this September. China covers three sides of our borders. Now it has also established a military base in Mynamar's (Burma's) Como island, which is also posing a severe threat to our security from across our north-east frontier. Thus, surrounded by deadly nuclear powers, how can India ever forgo its nuclear option? It just can't close its eyes to severe nuclear threats endangering its security from almost every side.

It is perfectly true that owing to India's refusal to sign the CTBT, no conclusive decision could be taken on it. But what deserves closer attention is the fact that India doesn't favor possession of nuclear weapons. On the contrary, India is the oldest, sole supporter of the drive for total disarmament. But India doesn't want the more subordinate countries that either have no nuclear weapons or have them in negligible quantities, to suffer in this pseudo campaign for nuclear disarmament. India wants all the countries of the world that possess most of the nuclear weapons available to join this drive in right earnest. If such mighty countries are not bound by the CTBT rules, the very concept of disarmament will lose its relevance. Moreover, if these countries are kept out of the CTBT gambit, how can nuclear nonproliferation ever be achieved? It is still conjectural how many nuclear weapons the undeclared nuclear powers have; on the other hand, the recognized nuclear powers have, as per their own admission, more than 17000 nuclear weapons. Considering all these facts, the Indian representative in the CTBT Conference, Ms Arundhati Ghosh suggested four changes in the CTBT proposal to make it more effective and meaningful.

However, despite the strong logic supporting these changes to the CTBT proposal, certain nuclear powers of the world refused to have them incorporated. In such a situation, how could India have given its consent to this CTBT proposal? After all, our security is our most vital consideration. So, unless the CTBT is made impartial and totally nondiscriminatory, India will never sign it.

India: Members of Lok Sabha Criticize Petroleum Price Hike

BK1007101596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lok Sabha will take up for discussion the petroleum price hike this evening. The speaker, Mr. P.A. Sangma, rejected a spate of adjournment motions moved by several members on the issue.

Earlier during zero hour, members raised the propriety of hiking the prices of petroleum products on the eve of the budget session. Members from all sides criticized the government for the step and wanted the speaker to give his ruling.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, wanted to know why the announcement of the hike was made when the house had already been summoned. Reiterating the demand for rolling back the price hike, he wanted these provisions to be covered in the regular budget. He was supported by several members belonging to the United Front also.

The moment the house assembled, several Congress members were on their feet demanding immediate withdrawal of the hike. Some of them trooped into the well of the house and Miss Mamata Bannerjee sat on a dharna [sit-in agitation] despite several appeals by her party colleagues to resume her seat. She insisted that the government should accede to her demand. Admonishing Miss Bannerjee, the speaker said that decorum of the house must be maintained.

Responding to the criticism, the finance minister, Mr. Chidambaram, said the price hike was announced under extraordinary circumstances. Refuting that any breach of propriety was involved, he said that the deficit in the oil account pool was mounting alarmingly forcing the government to take a decision immediately.

The speaker reiterated the stand taken by his predecessor, Dr. Balram Jakhar, in 1980 that though there has not been any infringement of rules, it would have been more appropriate if the announcement was made in the house. After listening to the members, the speaker allowed a short duration discussion on the petroleum price hike under Rule 193.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India: BJP Says Rao Court Summons Unprecedented

BK1007011296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Delhi court has summoned the former prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, on the 24th of this month to answer a criminal conspiracy charge against him in the Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case. In his order, the Delhi chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr. Prem Kumar, today observed that there is a prima facie evidence of Mr. Rao being a party to the conspiracy along with Chandraswami and Kailash Nath Agarwal. The summons have been issued for cheating under Section 420 and for criminal conspiracy under Section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code.

According to agency reports, two advocates appeared before the court soon after and presented a vakalatnama [power of attorney] signed by Mr. Narasimha Rao authorizing them to plead on his behalf. The NRI [Nonresident Indian], Mr. Pathak, has alleged that he had paid $100,000 to Chandraswami in 1983 after Mr. Narasimha Rao, who was the then external affairs minister, had assured him that his work would be done. The summons have been issued on an application by a Delhi lawyer.

The Congress Party has offered no comment on the summons. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen that they are yet to see the court order. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has described it as unprecedented.

India: Congress To File Appeal Against Court Summons for Rao

BK1007131896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian National Congress has decided that an appeal should be filed against the order of the chief metropolitan magistrate summoning Mr. Narasimha Rao in the Lakhubhai Pathak case. The decision was taken at the informal meeting of the party's working committee in New Delhi last night. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the Congress spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the appeal is to be filed in the High Court in the next two or three days. Mr. Gadgil said the CWC [Congress Working Committee] will again meet on Friday [12 July] evening to discuss the issue further.

A Delhi court today rejected the bail application of Chandraswami and his associate, Kailash Nath Agarwal alias Mamaji, in the Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mr. Prem Kumar while rejecting the application observed that he does not find any material change in the circumstances since the previous rejection of the accused's bail petition. This is the sixth time that Chandraswami's bail plea has been rejected.

Iran

Iran: Larijani on U.S. Policy, Iranian Press

LD0907174896 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 6 Jul 96 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, member of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani is a scientific and rational figure. He has served for a number of years in the country's policy decisionmaking centers, that is, the Foreign Ministry and the Foreign Policy Committee of the Islamic Majles. He was also one of the three people, who carried the late Imam's [Khomeyni's] message to Gorbachev in the Kremlin and held talks with the former Soviet leaders. As a member of the Supreme National Security Council he has also been involved in the adoption and implementation of the most sensitive policies. Dr. Larijani expresses his views very clearly. He never tries to contradict or deny his earlier statements, because he has prepared himself for every question.

Dr. Larijani was a guest of the chief editors and managers in daily AKHBAR's publication center. During an interview at this meeting, Dr. Larijani expressed his views on various issues, including expediency, negligence, achievements of the press, and the U.S. policy toward Iran. What you read below is the outcome of this interview:

[AKHBAR] What are the prerequisites of foreign policy decision making?

[Larijani] Let us first analyze the meaning of the word "policy." In the book "Theoretical research in foreign policy," I have explained four main points. One of these points is the proper understanding of events. It is very important to understand the true meaning of a report. For instance, sometimes one must spend hours to understand an event. To be an expert, one must understand foreign developments. This may require hours of preparation and research by experts.

The second point is to have a foreign policy strategy. The Foreign Ministry must actively participate in determining this strategy. I believe this is ultimately a responsibility of the esteemed leader. Our constitution says that the leader should determine the general policies of the state. The task can be performed with the assistance of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Supreme National Security Council. Of course, the Majles and other organs are also involved in compiling various strategies. And ultimately, the strategy must be endorsed by the leader. The Foreign Ministry is also dutybound to prepare reports on world developments to be presented to the state authorities.

The next point is to prepare implementation plans. Naturally extensive preparations should be made in order to implement complicated plans. Therefore, when the National Security Council makes a decision that a certain political objective must be pursued, it is up to the Foreign Ministry diplomatic experts to prepare various practical scenarios.

The next point is the organization of manpower resources.

[AKHBAR] What effect will an increase in the U.S. economic embargo against Iran have; and what can we do to confront it?

[Larijani] We must pay attention to the U.S. aims but not to their long-term aims. Experience has shown that an economic embargo will remain ineffective in the long term. The Americans have taken a decision and that is to reduce heavily our oil revenue. To achieve this they cannot resort to a military offensive because this will create tension in the entire region. A logical solution that they think of is to take away our customers and not allow our oil industry to be capable of supporting itself, thereby, making us unable to produce oil in future or, when we produce oil, we will be unable to sell it.

The Americans believe that this will have two advantages. One is that it will disrupt our economic situation and the process of our reconstruction. As a result, it may be possible that Iran will be forced to show some flexibility in those areas in which the Americans want. The second issue is that even if Iran does not show any flexibility toward America, this might prepare the ground for opposition inside the country, and as a result the government will be opposed by the people because of economic pressure and then it [Iran] will have no option but to give in to the United States.

[AKHBAR] To what extent will these measures by the United States be effective?

[Larijani] If the Americans want to influence us in the short term, then they are unable to do so without European cooperation. The Americans will not achieve their aims in the long term either. Naturally, the U.S. measure will put pressure on our oil revenue.

The Americans can threaten every one of the [international] oil companies. This action, in fact, will have a negative effect. However, the effects are not what the United States wants to see. It wants to see our oil revenue cut completely. That is to say [the United States wants] our oil production to be reduced to only 100 barrels per day.

[AKHBAR] Will this embargo have any effect on the reconstruction and renovation of our oil industries?

[Larijani] I have always said that with over 100 years of experience Iran should be identified with the oil industries. Regarding Iran's oil industry, the Americans must know one thing, that our oil industry has a 100-year history and 10,000 talented experts; therefore, we can well maintain our oil industry despite its complications.

It is unlikely that the world will accept the U.S. embargo against Iran. For example, the summit of the European leaders in Florence has rejected the U.S. request to impose sanctions against Iran.

[AKHBAR] Do you think the United States will take any steps to impose its view on Europe?

[Larijani] The Americans will take any action which they see as being in their interests.

[AKHBAR] Will Europe give in to the U.S. view?

[Larijani] It has not done so, so far. Europe wants to protect its independent stance based on mutual interests. Naturally, the Americans, both Democrats and Republicans, still hope to gain the backing of Europe and other countries. This is why they are still firmly continuing their political activities in this respect.

Concerning public opinion in America, Clinton who wanted to play a winning card with the Republicans, thought he would be able to turn public opinion in America in his favor by a adopting strong position against Iran. Of course one should not ignore the personal role played by some individuals regarding some international issues.

[AKHBAR] What is the role of different individuals in U.S. foreign policy? How do you, for instance, view Warren Christopher's role?

[Larijani] Warren Christopher bears a personal grudge against Iran. He played an essential role in raising the issue of sanctions against Iran. During the occupation of the espionage den [U.S. Embassy hostage crisis], Warren Christopher was Carter's representative trying to release the U.S. spies [the diplomats taken hostage in Iran]. These people [the Democrats] feel that they were humiliated during the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage in Iran. They, therefore, bear a big grudge against Iran and its Islamic Republic system. This is the reason you see that Christopher is one of a handful of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

people who insult the Iranian nation. Once he referred to the Iranian nation as the nation of international outlaws. A wise man would rarely insult an entire nation.

[AKHBAR] In view of your analysis, why should the United States take a decision [to impose economic sanctions against Iran] with the probability of failure?

[Larijani] I think for two reasons. First, they still believe that they will succeed. This is a view shared by both the Democrats and the Republicans. They say the sanctions are biting. They are hoping something would happen to make the Europeans side with them. For instance they might plant and explode several bombs and then blame the Iranians. Usually they do not concentrate all their efforts in one direction. They prepare the grounds in the hope of creating an adverse climate against Iran all over the world.

The second reason is that there is some disagreement among the Americans. Bill Clinton wanted to draw a winning card. He wanted to demonstrate that he is firm and determined against the Iranians.

[AKHBAR] Do you think the Americans are hoping that their action would lead to the disintegration of Iran's social structure?

[Larijani] Such a danger exists even without American interference. If we were to fail to manage our affairs, we would naturally endanger our national security. We must have competent managers. The people are prepared to put up with shortages, if they trust the authorities. When the people realize that there is no bias, when they see the law is respected with efforts of competent managers, they would put up with hardship. Our challenge is to have competent managers. Of course if we weaken, not only the Americans but any other major power would take advantage of our situation.

[AKHBAR] Do you think the time factor might affect the U.S. decision?

[Larijani] If by the "time factor" you mean the time of increasing the U.S. pressure, I must say the United States is considering two issues: First the issue of the Middle East problems, and second our internal rivalries. With respect to the first external issue, our country is not showing the green light or any hope (compared to previous occasions) to the Americans. [On the second issue] There is a general coordination in our country today.

[AKHBAR] Does this harmony also exist among political groups?

[Larijani] Political groups in Iran are more like political circles or clubs because we do not have [political] parties. Differences between circles cannot be regarded so much as national differences. This national harmony is a great divine blessing. Some of this [national harmony] is formed on the basis of Islam and some on the basis of velayat [rule of jurisconsult] and spirituality.

[AKHBAR] How do you describe the "red line"?

[Larijani] The press can make some contribution in this respect. But the law and its legislation are not in the hands of the press. Having a balanced idea about national interests, national survival, national strategy and similar issues is a good thing. One should not expect a policy framework to be set up [by the government] in order to be implemented and acted upon. The red line mentioned by the great leader [Khamene'i] means the basis of the regime itself. That is to say an Islamic system is based on Islamic thinking. If someone attacks this thought there is no doubt that he has stepped over the red line.

The misuse of the press and publications in order to ensure the personal interests of some individuals or factions, which only think about their own interests and hide behind others, sometimes takes the form of obscenity.

The duties of the press and publications are to explain and reflect general understanding. It is an important work for the press and publications to prepare public opinion for accepting right remarks. Not all people behave logically. There is a general perception that can be right or wrong.

The way the press is being used is not so good. This is to such an extent that general expectations of the press and publications are of praise only. At the same time, a number of our apparatus are trying to associate with some of the publications and the press in order to use them for their own advantage when they feel it necessary. The theory of publications has turned into a theory of trumpeting [bugh].

What I want to say is that not only are we distancing ourselves from the publications but we are making them corrupt. That is to say instead of trying to encourage the publications to come forward, create challenges and prepare the ground for dynamism, we ourselves are making them corrupt, which is not a correct thing.

[AKHBAR] Would you explain the characteristics, the extent and concept of that line.

[Larijani] The red line is not confined to our system alone. It exists in every country and everybody must observe it. In the 1950s communists were active in America. Then the McGovern Act [as published] was put forward and they confronted them seriously. During the Vietnam war left-wing tendencies were rife in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

America. But the Americans dealt with them severely. They say: Our system is liberal; if a movement threatens the basis of the system, we would sacrifice everything to combat that threat, even personal freedom.

[AKHBAR] They don't have a good excuse, do they?

[Larijani] I don't want to say it was right, but there are limits which constitute red lines to a government, which exist everywhere. [passage omitted]

[AKHBAR] Does the possibility of individual spiritual growth not come into conflict with this red line?

[Larijani] I believe that the red line lies in a position that defines the survival of the system. If, regarding this, we publicize that religious government is irrelevant or that Islam has nothing to say about government at all or that Islamic government is meaningless, this would go against the structure of the system and would be a red line.

[AKHBAR] And such debates must not be allowed to be raised?

[Larijani] But a red line does not mean that you must not raise such debates in the press. A red line is, rather, something that must make everyone sensitive. If anyone says this, you must report it. However, you must also report sensitivities. A red line does not mean silence. The frameworks that clarify the existence of the system are manifested in various ways. First, there is opinion. Next, general familiarity with an opinion is set out. Then, there are the legal manifestations and then the methods of implementation. These things must not be mixed. An opinion is itself higher than laws. However, a law must oversee its implementation. The executor, for his part, must pursue ways of implementing the opinion. And there is a possibility of abuse at every point. One can write a bad law and one can implement a good law badly. We have no shortcomings from the point of view of laws.

[AKHBAR] But there is also the question of different tastes interpreting the red line differently....

[Larijani] This is not a matter of prescription or interpretation. It must be developed gradually. Laws must limit these excesses to some extent. Laws exist precisely so that principles are carried out uniformly.

[AKHBAR] How great is the danger posed by the raising of different and conflicting ideas?

[Larijani] Some sections of the press basically take a position opposed to the bases of Islamic thought. Some cannot even be described as secularists; they are anarchists.

[AKHBAR] Such a debate must not be raised at all?

[Larijani] I want to repeat what Plato said, that different levels of debate carry different sensitivities. This debate may be raised at the level of the Supreme National Security Council, university discussions or theoretical lessons. However, publicizing this idea is different from discussing it.

The second point that I see as important is the idea of civil tolerance in Islamic thinking, which must be set out well both from the theoretical point of view and from the point of view of practice. On the basis of Islamic thinking, we do not have such a thing as absolute tolerance. Of course, I believe that absolute tolerance does not exist in the logic of liberal democracy either. From the point of view of theory, John Stuart Mill wished to see such a thing as an ideal. However, it does not exist in practice.

If we say that we have no tolerance whatsoever, this is plainly false. I can see at least four areas of tolerance regarding the Islamic structure. One of them is criticism of officials, at whatever level. In other words, an individual can criticize any official without coming under pressure. Another one is tolerance regarding different understandings of religion. Another is tolerance regarding ideas which are not theoretically anti-Islamic. For example, we can see that our bookshops stock a range of books by Max Weber and others. Some of these may not publicize an Islamic society. They may even oppose it. However, we show tolerance, because we do not wish to be an island. We must have contact with the world. The fourth one is tolerance toward non-Muslims — which has its own scope.

Beyond these levels of tolerance, there is an aspect to tolerance, the understanding of which has meant that we have been unable, in practice, to implement things that an Islamic viewpoint does tolerate. This concerns the conjunction of tolerance and sensitivity. In liberal democracy, tolerance is accompanied by negligence. In fact, the theory of liberal democracy is based on the elimination of any general structure for happiness.

[AKHBAR] Do you mean to say that we should show both tolerance and sensitivity regarding some things?

[Larijani] If tolerance is accompanied by sensitivity, it will advance with great ease. At the moment, because sensitivity is limited in society, we have been forced to reduce tolerance, whereas if there is a high degree of sensitivity, tolerance will also increase. The kind of tolerance that we have in Islamic society is a tolerance accompanied by sensitivity. During the last five, six years, I have seen that the press raises an issue on occasion without showing any sensitivity about its anti-Islamic aspects. This has led to tolerance being destroyed in that area.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

If a university lecturer says in an interview that, in his opinion, a religious society is an irrational society and one that cannot develop, there is no problem with this interview being reported and published. However, we must definitely be sensitive about it and sensitize society to it, because the task of the media is not a philosophical one. It is, rather, a social one. Thus, if a good critique of the interview is published alongside the interview itself, then no problem will arise. However, when this interview is published on its own in two, three issues, without any sensitivity, some people become very sensitive about it. It is not very surprising, then, that a scholar should stand up in Qom and say, to do this [say such things in an interview] is to draw a sword against Islamic thinking.

[AKHBAR] The system must, at any rate, observe tolerance in its social measures.

[Larijani] This is an important point. Tolerance has different aspects in terms of the law, power and culture. Cultural tolerance is very important. On the whole, we have very little experience in tolerating differences. It is the same in the Majles. The Majles is a very good place for people who have a low level of tolerance, because such people realize there that they must coexist.

In the Majles Investigation Committee, we had an example of one person expressing their view and another opposing it with great vigor. There were even quarrels sometimes. This also occurs on occasion on the floor of the Majles. Anyone who shows in the Majles that they do not have tolerance will certainly fail. In fact, the people who express their views with tolerance make progress. The art of tolerance has a cultural dimension in which we have no experience. Our social structures, too, which wished to exploit sensitivity, inflicted a blow on tolerance, whereas sensitivity must act as a ladder for tolerance, not destroy it. We must increase sensitivity as much as we can so that we can create the space for tolerance in rationality, in the law and in politics. In other words, if you have a newspaper which contains the worst types of liberal thinking and which, at the same time, contains excellent criticisms of them, so that, after reading it, the reader will know for certain that the newspaper is entirely sensitive to the values of the system and the revolution, this can create a very good cultural climate.

[AKHBAR] You mean to say that we should, in the press, raise an idea and also raise the opposite idea in the same issue, alongside it?

[Larijani] Exactly. In this way, we would have created sensitivity in the people. The thing that we can speak about now is the civil structure of the system. We have a young civil system which has not yet found its structures. If we stir up extensive publicity now, saying that Islamic government is intrinsically an unsuccessful idea — we must not show tolerance regarding this. I believe that this would pose a great danger to the entire system, because there is a difference between rationality and acceptability — because a social aptitude is required in order for the people to believe in an idea or keep their distance from it. Just as, if we do not run the country well, the basis of the system will be endangered and the people may develop doubts about the effectiveness of an Islamic system. This is why President Hashemi-Rafsanjani considers construction to be the most important principle of our era. That is to say, if we cannot develop the country, an attitude will be brought about that can endanger the validity of an idea [Islamic government]. The press and the media can play an important and effective role in this respect and, in the current circumstances, they can knit together general ideas, so that the basic axis of the system is not tarnished.

[AKHBAR] On this basis, we have made tolerance and sensitivity coequal. Where do you put interests?

[Larijani] Tolerance must not be sacrificed for sensitivity [as published]. For example, for the last five to six years, a considerable number of articles have been written about how religious government is an irrational thing. The writing of so many articles during this period is suspect and suspicious. I do not wish to suggest that this is a foreign conspiracy. What I want to say is that, if we believe in and are determined to establish a civil society on the basis of Islamic thought, we will bring our beliefs into question by writing such material. If the journals being read by our younger generation are not sympathetic to the system, if our lecturers in social and political sciences speak badly of the revolution and refuse to utter anything about an Islamic republic, if we are not even prepared to speak with fairness, we will not be able to establish a civil society on the basis of Islamic thought.

Iran: Daily Notes Lack of Allies' Trust in U.S.

LD1007215796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Jul 96 p 16

[Unattributed article: "The United States Must Return to Its Own Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The climate of world public opinion has clearly turned further against America. The general feeling, whether in its public dimension or, more recently, its governmental dimension throughout the world, is increasingly expressing views, taking

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

stances, or even acting against America. Even Washington's allies are nowadays without any legitimate reasons to hide their anti-American sentiments and prefer not to fall behind and show their anti-American attitude, and even anti-American approach.

A fresh question arises here: What has happened and what is the main reason for this phenomenon? Why are Washington and America's interests being opposed these days in the world, objected to, and even targeted for retaliatory action? It may be that the Washington authorities still prefer to attribute everything to others and consider as "terrorism" and condemn beforehand any logical opposition to their hegemonism, extortions, and imperious approach toward other countries. However, evidence shows that this old method, at least under present world conditions, is totally futile and detrimental, even to America itself.

The repetition of such allegations by the Washington authorities proves that they are unable to assess the conditions of the world today, and still think that if the CIA, the Pentagon, and the U.S. State Department express their views on any point — even if they resort to lies — others will accept their wrong and lying analyses wholeheartedly, and will feel certain that America is telling the truth.

Of course, it must not be overlooked that until recently, Washington's allies did not have the same approach toward America and used to accept America's claims on any subject. Rather, even if they did not have any belief in the truth of Washington's claims on any issue, at least they did not raise any serious objections to them either, and in practice America's word carried through. However, no one trusts America today and America's idiotic abuses of others' trust has created an "absolute crisis of mistrust" between America and the outside world, even between the U.S. Administration and the people of that country.

In fact, the main root must be searched for in America's "leadership crisis." The reason is that the U.S. statesmen are not competent, truthful, and fitting people to be able to attract the trust of others. They seek to have their way by merely resorting to the worst inhumane methods. Of course, it may be said that this American phenomenon is nothing new and that America's power foundation and structure is such that, usually those who truly deserve to have responsibility are not given key posts. So, naturally, to expect competent and fitting individuals in the U.S. ruling group is illogical and futile.

Iran: Official Criticizes Netanyahu's 'Baseless Charges'

LD1107055596 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam said that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has violated all international laws and norms.

In an interview with the English daily IRAN NEWS on Thursday [11 July], he referred to Netanyahu's baseless charges that Iran is acquiring an atomic bomb saying, "Iran's doors are open to international inspectors."

He further told the paper "contrary to Israel, Iran's doors are still open and there are no restrictions as our nuclear facilities are for peaceful endeavors."

On Israeli and American collaboration, Sheykholeslam who is deputy foreign minister in charge of Arab and African countries affairs said, "they both dance to the same tune and hail each other."

Iran: OIC Summit Urged After Netanyahu's 'Declaration of War'

LD1107072996 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Thursday [11 July] describing as "declaration of war" a statement made by the Zionist prime minister before the U.S. Congress, urged the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to convene a summit to review the situation.

The editorial was referring to Netanyahu's address at the U.S. Congress on Wednesday in which he ruled out any division of Beiut al-Moqaddaas [place-name as received], saying it will remain Israel's capital.

Netanyahu also stressed that expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories will continue and that Israel will not withdraw from the Golan Heights and other occupied territories. The Zionist prime minister announced in his security statement of Israel, reciprocation on the part of the Arabs and democracy as conditions for continuation of the so-called peace process.

"If security is a vital issue for the aggressor Israel, it is equally vital for its neighbors whose territories have remained under the occupation of the Zionist regime for decades," it said.

The paper stressed that the Zionist regime should realize that occupation of land of its neighbors is no guarantee for its security.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Turning to reciprocation, it remarked that Israel itself should be ready to reciprocate. Arabs too need security, it asked Israel to withdraw from all the occupied territories and pledge not to cast a covetous eye on the Arab lands again in order to guarantee their security.

On democracy in Arab countries, it said Tel Aviv has no right to interfere in their internal affairs.

"Instead of shedding crocodile tears for the lack of democracy in the Arab countries, Netanyahu should allow all Palestinians from all parts of the world to return to their motherland," it said, adding, "a democratic plebiscite should be held to decide the nature of the regime there in order to put an end to the hostility through the democratic method of referendum."

Stressing that Muslim countries should rely on themselves instead of the U.S., it said, "what the Arabs should bear in mind is that despite rhetoric statements, the U.S. is not a friend of the Arabs."

"During his address to the congress which was tantamount to a declaration of war against Arabs, Netanyahu several times received the standing and applauding of the Congress members," TEHRAN TIMES pointed out.

Iran: Reasons for Dharan, Riyadh Explosions Analyzed

NC1007192796 Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 Jun 96 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Saudi Arabia—Why a Bomb Explosion?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The explosion of a second bomb in Saudi Arabia during the past year resulted in the killing and injuring of hundreds of Saudi servicemen and their military advisers residing there. At least 19 of those killed were Americans. A similar explosion on 3 November last year also resulted in the killing and injuring of 67, of whom four were American advisers. Following the explosion in November at the U.S. advisers' base in Riyadh, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry had said: "Saudi Arabia is usually a stable country." The latest explosion has belied Perry's remark. However, what is the reason for two such similar explosions (in both cases a car bomb went off) with such similar objectives?

The involvement of groups sent from Baghdad in order to destabilize countries that supported the United States in the Persian Gulf war, and combatant groups of the Arab peninsula, the rigging of American scenarios for creating pretexts for boosting the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, and so on are reasons that could be linked to the explosions in Riyadh and Dhahran. However, internal unrest seems a more plausible reason.

Regardless of all the kinds of reasons being proposed for the Riyadh and Dhahran explosions, and which group or organization assumes responsibility for them, it cannot detract from the effects of the "economic crisis" and the "crisis of political and social participation" on Saudi society.

From the economic point of view, Saudi Arabia with its population of 17 million is itself an example of the theory of "the relationship between increasing expectations and social discontent." The Saudi Government is not capable, as in the past, of responding to the expectations of the country's people. [passage omitted]

Another reason for the people's discontent is the budget deficit as the government's efforts to minimize it have been directed more toward a reduction of expenditure for public services, infrastructure, and education. This trend has resulted in most development projects in the country being abandoned without being completed and the percentage of development allocations by the government being curtailed in all public expenses.

A glance at Saudi Arabia's budget for fiscal year 1995 reveals that the expenditure for non-oil infrastructural industries and for power has been cut from $4 billion in 1994 to $1.3 billion in 1995 and the budget for water and civic services has been reduced from $1.45 billion to $1.5 billion.

The Saudi Arabian people would only accept this change in their situation if the country's military expenditure, including the cost of the presence of 5,000 American troops in the country, were to be reduced. The country's military allocation for 1996 is $13.9 billion, which constitutes 11 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and 32.6 percent of the entire government expenditure. For the years 1993 and 1994 this allocation was 34.1 and 33.1 percent respectively.

The monopoly of foreign trade by the al-Sa'ud princes and the wide chasm between the lifestyle of the people and the royal family is also one of the causes of the growing disenchantment among the people.

The people in Saudi Arabia are naturally not considered among the most impoverished of the region's countries so that they would stage an uprising or revolution merely for economic reasons. However, the reality is that social discontentment does not always stem from dire poverty. Even in affluent societies like Saudi Arabia, if the people feel that they are not as happy as before regarding their expectations and level of comfort, it would be natural for them to be dissatisfied with their government.

From the political and social vantage point, the conditions are not what they were in the seventies and eight-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ies for the al-Sa'ud dynasty. The increasing contacts between the Saudi citizens and the outside world, an increase in the educated stratum, even the false sense of economic growth, which were considered a source of pride for the al-Sa'uds, have become a scourge for the government.

The opponents of the government are not limited to Shiites alone and include the educated, the business class, the liberals, and so on, all of whom desire greater "political participation." In order to attain their objectives, groups such as the "committee for the defense of legitimate rights" have been formed under the leadership of Dr. al-Mas'ari, a professor at the Riyadh university.

On the other hand, the Wahhabi clerics as well as the al-Salafis are among the dissidents who are of course opposed to the liberals and revisionists but are unhappy about the scant reforms and the heresy of the government.

Naturally if social and political expectations, which include the attainment of basic social and political rights, were to find a desired conduit as a result of the emergence of civic institutions in society, such as the press and independent parties, the legitimacy and popularity of the ruling party would be evaluated by means of democratic elections and the share of each political and social group would be clarified. If this were the case, today Saudi Arabia would have enjoyed "peaceful political rivalry" among political groups and factions instead of bomb explosions.

However, the Riyadh government is not yet willing to accept the political beliefs of its opponents who believe in "an internal struggle" against the regime by democratic means. The incarceration for months of personalities such as Dr. al-Mas'ari and hundreds of other citizens may have motivated the opponents of the al-Sa'ud clan to embark on an "internal armed struggle against the regime" with the aim of toppling it.

Meanwhile the attack on the American forces, as they are supporters of such a regime that is facing a crisis of legitimacy and popular participation, is important and merits attention. Those who were responsible for the explosions in Riyadh and Dhahran are seeking to assert that the presence of American troops with such fanfare in the region will not be of any assistance in safeguarding the stability of the traditional regimes such as the al-Sa'uds and will also endanger their own safety.

Iran: Paper Views Saudi Inability To Ensure Safety of U.S. Troops

LD1007162596 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Jul 96 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "Saudi Arabia: Insecurity for the Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington's decision to move American forces stationed in [Saudi] Arabian cities to desert areas in Hijaz reveals the depth of the fear and anxiety of the White House leaders about the future course of events in that tense country. What has brought about this fear is the fact that the Muslims detest the continued presence of these uninvited American forces in Arabia, who have been stationed there since the end of the Persian Gulf war.

Arabia's huge oil resources, the fact that the Americans play an active role in exploiting these resources, and finally the Saudi economy's total reliance on oil income are all factors that have induced Washington to dispatch to that country its largest civilian contingent (35,000 people) anywhere outside America. Alongside these civilians, there are tens of thousands of American military personnel in Arabia who were stationed there after the Persian Gulf war.

Under the present conditions, some 12 million Arabians have employed around 4.5 million foreign nationals to carry out various tasks in their country. Among this contingent, the Americans are chiefly engaged in management, health and medical affairs, teaching, and information technology.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the high salaries and the excellent benefits offered, including trips to Europe during vacations, are the main incentives for the Americans to go to Arabia. These attractions prove enticing for the Americans even during the sporadic waves of bomb blasts, and even when the Arabian people are clearly not very friendly toward them.

At present, the explosion of two powerful bombs near the American bases around Riyadh and Dhahran, which led to the death of 24 Americans and wounding of hundreds of others, has unmasked many difficulties and has revealed the depth of the present dissent. Generally speaking, the opposition forces are unhappy about what is happening in Arabia at the moment.

While most of Arabia's citizens have accepted the need for the presence of foreign workers in that country, the continued presence of Western troops on the Arabian territory has angered the Muslim people. It was for this reason that, last week, American senior military

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

officials ordered their personnel to refrain from wearing their uniforms in public places. All these measures are aimed at somehow escaping the anger and hatred of the Arabian people. On the other hand, all the measures by the Saudi regime to enforce strict laws and impose tight control on Arabia's citizens have not in any way succeeded in ensuring the safety and security of the American forces.

All the major and not-so-major threatening events affecting the foreign military advisers working in Arabia underline this failure. Schwarzkopf, the retired general who commanded the American forces in the 1991 Persian Gulf war, has said in an interview: This bomb blast showed that even societies such as Saudi Arabia, which are under strict control, may be targeted by opposition forces.

Iran: Paper Says 'Iran Builds Up Network of Terror Schools'

LD0707111996 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 7 Jul 96 p 27

[Report by chief foreign correspondent Con Coughlin: "Iran Builds Up Network of Terror Schools"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has developed an extensive network of training camps which are being used to train terrorists for operations around the world, confirming US claims that Tehran is now the world's leading exponent of international terrorism.

At least 11 camps have been established throughout the country on the orders of Iran's President Rafsanjani. Some are used for training Iranian agents to carry out attacks at home and abroad, while others are used to train foreign terrorists who are sympathetic to the Iranian cause.

An estimated 5,000 volunteers pass through the camps each year, of whom about 500 are given extensive training in a wide range of terrorist skills, from working with explosives to carrying out assassinations .

Each of the self-sufficient camps is used for a specific purpose. The Abyek camp at Qasvim, for example, is used for training in terrorist assassinations .

The camp looks like a small provincial town, with neat rows of shops and houses. But behind this genteel facade is the equivalent of a graduate school for terrorism, where trainees who have successfully completed courses elsewhere are given their final training before active operations.

The instructors provide trainees with the bodies of recently executed criminals for target practice. The aim is to enable trainees to see for themselves the effect produced by different weapons when fired at close and long range.

Other camps are devoted to training specific groups of foreign nationals. Nahavand camp, in the Iranian town of Hamadan, is used exclusively by Lebanon's Hizballah Islamic fundamentalist group, which has carried out a series of suicide bomb attacks against Western targets in the Middle East.

The Fateh Ghani Hoseyni camp at Qom is mainly used by Turkish Islamic militants responsible for a string of political assassinations in their homeland.

Although no direct link has yet been found to implicate Iran in the recent bomb attack against an American military complex at the Saudi Arabian eastern port of Dhahran, two Saudi dissident groups suspected of masterminding the attack, in which 19 US servicemen were killed, are based in Tehran.

The Organisation of Islamic Revolution of Jazirat al-'Arab and the Hizballah of the al-Hijaz, two groups that are outlawed in Saudi Arabia, are based in Tehran and work closely with Iran's intelligence ministry. A group calling itself "Hizballah Gulf" claimed responsibility for the Dhahran bombing.

Supporters of these Saudi groups are allowed to use the Imam 'Ali training camp in east Tehran. A former military barracks run by the foreign affairs ministry, it is the largest of the 11 camps and has extensive training facilities. Intelligence experts believe many of Iran's overseas terrorist attacks are planned here.

Iran's network of terrorist training facilities is ultimately controlled by the Supreme Security Council in Tehran, headed by President Rafsanjani, which authorises the various organisations to carry out their operations.

World leaders meeting at last week's G7 summit made a concerted plea to Iran to stop supporting terrorism and to play a constructive role in the region and world affairs.

But given the size and sophistication of Iran's terrorist infrastructure there is little chance that the ayatollahs can be persuaded to mend their ways. Indeed all the indications are that in recent months Tehran has intensified its terrorist operations, particularly in Europe. In the past five months 12 opponents of the Islamic regime have been murdered in Europe.

In the most recent case Reza Mazluman, a former minister under the Shah, was gunned down at his Paris apartment. German police are currently holding Ahmad Jeyhuni, a high-ranking agent of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence, in connection with his killing.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jeyhuni, who had befriended Mazluman prior to the murder, is suspect of involvement in the assassination of other Iranian dissidents in Europe, and German investigators are hoping he can provide details of Iran's intelligence Operations throughout Europe. The arrest of Jeyhuni, who was attached to the Iranian embassy in Bonn at the time of his arrest, is deeply embarrassing for the Germans. They have been accused of allowing Tehran to use its Bonn embassy as de facto headquarters for its European terrorist operations. The Germans have also been embarrassed by the discovery of a sophisticated mortar rocket system which was discovered on board an Iranian ship which had sailed from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas to Hamburg.

German investigators have now found that the Iranians were planning to use the mortar to carry out an IRA style attack on the headquarters of the National Resistance Council of Iran (NCRI) located at Ouver-sur-Oise, 30 miles south of Paris.

Although the headquarters has protection against car bombs, the mortar, which has a range of half a mile, could have penetrated the defences. "If this weapon had been used it would have killed a lot of innocent people," an NCRI spokesman said last week. "Apart from destroying our headquarters it could have caused considerable damage to the surrounding French residential neighbourhood."

Iran: Minister on Accord With PRC To Exploit Songon Copper Mines

LD1007120796 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Songon, E. Azerbaijan Prov., July 10, IRNA — Iran and China will make joint investments in exploitation of Songon copper mines in Abar, in this northwestern province, said Minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Mahluji here Tuesday [9 July].

A barter trade agreement has been signed with China in this connection, he said, adding the two countries will jointly invest dlrs. 250 million to exploit the mines.

The initial stages of the contract have been carried out and the executive operations are to start as of next year, Mahluji added. Some dlrs. 10 million has been allocated to the project this year, said the minister. Songon copper mines with estimated one billion tones of reserves is among the richest in the world.

Iran: Israeli Influence Seen Behind Turkish Cross-Border Attack

LD1007152296 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial by 'Ali Akbar Dareini: "Israeli Plans and Turkish-Iranian Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the pro-Islam Refah Party leader Necmettin Erbakan was succeeding in forging a coalition government that would be the first Islamic-led government in Turkey's modern history, notorious hands were at work to disrupt the Irano-Turkish relations.

On Wednesday afternoon 26 June, two Turkish helicopters, in flagrant disregard to international norms, violated the Iranian air space in Silvana region, northwestern Iran and fired two rockets on Iranian nomads grazing their herds. The helicopters were flying 5 km deep inside the Iranian airspace for half an hour. As a result, two children and four women were killed and 17 others injured. Also 700 heads of sheep were destroyed and 800 more missing. In less than 48 hours, Erbakan was appointed prime minister.

The savage attack was similar to another incursion in January 1994 when Turkish jet fighters killed nine Iranian villagers and wounding 19 others near the Sardasht region. The Turks confirmed that they had mistaken in targeting a separatist PKK base in northern Iraq and Iran accepted the Turkish explanation.

The Iranian government says Turkey officially "apologised" for the mistaken attack, but according to IRNA reports available at the time, the Turkish government only expressed "regret" for the incident. This time the Turkish army totally denies having carried out the attack.

Iranian observers unanimously believe that the latest Turkish incursion is a different story. It happens four months after the then Turkish secular government signed a military pact with the Zionist regime giving Israeli planes training rights in the Turkish airspace and more importantly the attack coincides with the rise to power of the pro-Islam Refah Party in Ankara.

Nobody rules out Israeli provocation in the incursion and observers do believe that the attack, considering Israeli influence in the higher echelons of the Turkish army, has been carried out "deliberately" to disrupt Irano-Turkish relations and create animosity between the "two Muslim nations."

It is now necessary for the Iranian government to tell the Turks in plain language that such incidents are the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

desire of the Zionist regime and that it is not in the interests of Turkey to seek adventurism against Iran.

Israel does have plans to strike Iran and Syria and Turkey should not allow its airspace to be used for Israeli plans. Such attacks, if repeated, will have repercussions and the outcome will be detrimental to both Iran and Turkey and will help the Zionist regime achieve her sinister objectives.

An official apology to Iran, compensation for the damages incurred, and a commitment by Ankara that such attacks will never be repeated are the least the Turks are expected to do.

Observers believe the denial by the Turkish army of the attack is complicating the problem. Denying the facts makes the Turks more guilty, adversely affects, contrary to the will of the two nations, the relations between Tehran and Ankara, and makes Israel happy.

The Turkish delegation which is due in Tehran soon to probe the incident is expected to come with the objective to "solve" the problem and not "aggravate" it, and this could be done by meeting Iran's legitimate demands mentioned above.

The borders of Iran and Turkey have always been the borders of friendship and not enmity, and the Turkish delegation should prove by its words and deeds that borders of friendship will remain intact so that the will of the two Muslim nations and governments are met and the Israeli conspiracies are foiled.

However, the Turkish side should be told in a plain language that "enough is enough" and should such incidents be repeated, they should not expect their planes and helicopters to return.

Iran: Turkish Official Holds News Conference on Tehran Talks

LD1007172996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish deputy interior minister, who is in Tehran, announced the outcome of his talks with the Iranian authorities in a news conference this afternoon. He said: Incidents took place between Iran and Turkey which have, unfortunately, created some tension.

He said: The Turkish government is aware that the Iranian authorities are sensitive about the violation of Iranian soil by the Turkish helicopters. He added that he will take back to Ankara the evidence and documents presented by Iran so that preparations can be made for a delegation of experts to come to Iran.

In the news conference Mr. Bolandiyan, the deputy interior minister for security [and disciplinary] affairs, exhibited documents, missile fragments, and other evidence of the attack. He said: We have given the Turkish delegation the necessary documents and evidence. The Turkish authorities have accepted responsibility for the incident. The final response will be announced after the visit by the Turkish delegation of experts.

He referred to the fact that Iran is adjacent to Turkey's crisis-ridden provinces and for that reason faces certain difficulties. He said: The agreements which will be signed on the maintenance of the Turkish-Iranian border will prevent us from complaining to international tribunals, because we are aware of Turkey's goodwill and constant contact between the officials of the two countries will guarantee the implementation of those agreements.

Iran: Radio Comments on Turkish Official's Visit to Tehran

LD1007202296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Turkish deputy interior minister, Mr. Erol Caker, who is participating in the third session of the high security commission between Iran and Turkey in Tehran, met with a number of high-level officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday 9 July.

In his meeting with the Turkish official, the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati referred to the 26 June attack by Turkish helicopter gunships on several Iranian border villagers in which six people were killed and 15 others wounded, and stressed that firm defense of the security of the Iranian territory and citizens is an infallible policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He continued that the Turkish Government should instruct Turkish border guards to take necessary precautions in regard to the Iranian border regions so that incidents which might raise suspicion and distress between the two sides would not happen.

In response, Mr. Caker said his current trip to Tehran is to arrange for security needs of the countries and to investigate about the tragic incident that happened two weeks ago. He added: We are sincerely ready to conduct necessary investigations and reach conclusive results.

Based on the latest reports, it is scheduled for joint Turko-Iranian military technical delegation to visit the Silvana border region today, Wednesday 10 July, and investigate the recent Turkish helicopters' breach of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Iranian airspace, which resulted in the killing of a number of Iranian nationals.

The common security of neighboring countries in the area and good borderly relations between Iran and Turkey call upon the Turkish Government to pay special attention to its border regions with Iran. In fact the maintaining of security and a common Iran-Turkey border depends on mutual trust and repetition of the incident which happened two weeks ago will definitely not be in the interest of Turkey. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always tried to foil the conspiracies and illegitimate actions of enemies, schemed to damage close and friendly relations between Iran and Turkey. This is why Iran has gone for the option to talk with Turkish officials as a proper solution to resolve differences resulting from the border incident happened in the Turkish-Iranian border recently.

It is expected that the current visit by the Turkish delegation to Iran, accompanied by good will on the part of both Turkish and Iranian officials, will help remove difficulties between the two sides and relations will expand between the two countries more than ever before.

Iran: Iraqi Kurd Seeks Iran's Help in Struggle Between Factions

LD0907102996 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Iran can play a key role in bringing peace to the warring Kurdish parties in Iraq's Kurdistan, leader of the Revolutionary Hizbollah of Iraqi Kurdistan (RHIK), Sheykh Adham Barezani stressed.

In an interview with the morning daily 'IRAN NEWS' Tuesday [9 July] he noted that no country could better influence the politics of Iraq's Kurdistan than the Islamic Republic of Iran, but regretfully whenever Iran's efforts are about to bear fruit the U.S. and Western nations interfere and neutralize them.

"The different Kurdish factions in northern Iraq listen to Iran and value Iran's mediation role in that region," he stated.

Concerning the conflicts between Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Barezani said that the continued conflict between them has damaged their reputations among the people.

"Instead of spending their money to buy arms to make war, these two parties could help the Kurdish people economically..."

Condemning the recent invasion of northern Iraq by the Turkish army, he said, "should Turkey continue its military operations in the future we will face them with arms."

As to military agreement signed by Turkey and the Zionist regime, Barezani stated that it has been instrumental in the recent Turkish military adventurism, and by signing that pact Turkey has in fact taken a step against Islamic movements in the region.

He concluded by expressing hope that Necmettin Erbakan, who has recently assumed power in that country, would correct Turkey's past policies.

Iran: Radio Commentary Views Formation of New Afghan Government

LD0807100596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new Afghan cabinet was sworn in yesterday when as the result of Taleban rocket attacks on Kabul, 15 people were killed and 40 wounded. Following the official establishment of the government in Kabul by Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, which enjoys the support of the Jehadi groups, it is now expected that the policy of his government will aim at attracting the cooperation of all Jehadi groups and their leaders while the new cabinet manages the affairs of the country for the next six months.

It was in this context and with the aim of solving the country's problems through dialogue rather than war that the Afghan prime minister called on the Taleban rebels to join the peace process.

Political experts believe that a full Afghan cabinet has not been introduced in order to encourage the possibility of cooperation and participation of the opposition groups in the government. At the moment, some 12 posts of the new cabinet are vacant.

It is also noticeable that 'Abdol Karim Khalili, one of the faction leaders of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami], has welcomed talks with the government, and there is also the possibility that members of the Coordination Council of the North might join the new government.

Political experts believe that in view of the almost unanimous views of the Coordination Council on the need to solve the country's problem on the basis of political dialogue, a positive development will take place in the country's political climate.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Indeed, the formation of the new cabinet, which enjoys a wider social base, has created the possibility for the Afghan people to participate in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the establishment of stability and security.

Iran: Velayati Denies Tehran Called For Improved Egyptian Ties

LD1107062696 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Iran has not called for improvement of relations with Egypt, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati commenting on Cairo's pre-conditions for normalization of ties with Tehran.

In an interview with the morning daily IRAN NEWS on Thursday [11 July], he added, "what is important for us in this relation, is our respect for Syria's efforts to forge closer cooperation among Islamic states in their campaign against the hegemonic schemes of the Zionist regime."

Appreciating Syrian efforts, he stated that Iran has always been on Syria's side from the very outset after the Islamic revolution and will continue to stand by the people and government of Syria, particularly in their quest to liberate their occupied lands

Iran: Kerman's Economic Cooperation With Armenia To Expand

LD1107104996 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 11 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kerman, July 11, IRNA — Economic cooperation between Iran's Kerman Province and Armenia will expand in a near future, said a provincial official here Thursday [11 July].

He said that during a visit to Yervan of a delegation from the province this month, it was agreed to set up a joint company between Armenia and Kerman Province for export of agricultural products .

The two sides also reached agreement on transit of goods from the Sirjan free trade zone to Armenia, joint investment in production of decorative stones and chicken farming.

At present, concentrated copper worth dlrs. 25 million is being purchased from Armenia annally and transferred to Sar Cheshmeh copper complex, in this southern province.

Iran: Velayati Holds Talks With Moldovan Industries Minister

LD0907193496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today, the industries minister of Moldova and our country's foreign minister discussed the expansion of relations between the two countries, in particular in industrial and agricultural sectors, regional cooperation and also cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.

In the meeting, Mr. Triboi stressed Moldova's desire to enhance cooperation with Iran in the fields of industries, reconstruction, investment on joint projects and in general all areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

He said: Moldova is keen to benefit from Iran's industrial expertise so that the two countries can jointly manufacture tractors, cement and agricultural machinery.

Mr. Velayati, in turn, referred to the growing trend of ties between the two countries and the positive results of reciprocal visits by Moldovan prime minister and [Iranian Vice President] Mr. Habibi. He said the formation of a joint commission on cooperation between the two countries was a clear sign that their bilateral relations were growing with a good momentum.

Our country's foreign minister, moreover, stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation. He referred to the positive fruits yielded by this line of cooperation with the CIS and Caucasus countries, and expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to enjoy a similar type of of cooperation with Moldova.

Iran: Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Laos

LD1007202796 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — A memorandum of understanding was inked between Iran and Laos here on Wednesday [10 July] on the last day of stay in Tehran of Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat.

Based on the memorandum of understanding the two sides agreed to expand their cooperation in the commercial, technical, training, phamecutical, research, agricultural, health and irrigation fields.

The two sides also agreed on cooperation in the area of light industry, production of medicines, scientific courses, and exchange of specialized delegations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Laotian foreign minister voiced the interest of his country in using the expertise of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the technical, engineering and training fields.

Iran, too, expressed willingness in strengthening cooperation with Laos in all the areas mentioned in the agreement.

Iran: Head of Majles Planning Committee on Economic Problems

LD0907144496 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 4 Jul 96 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AKHBAR News Network — Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin [Qorban Ali] Dorri-Najafabadi, head of the Majlis's Plan and Budget Committee, said in an interview with AKHBAR's parliamentary correspondent: The major economic problems facing the country, in view of the fluctuating foreign exchange rate, are the amount of our foreign debt, the development programs, and the many needs of society.

He added: Of course the country was facing economic problems during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war too. But at that time the problem was overshadowed by the bigger problem of the war. He said: By adopting short-term, medium-term, and long-term policies, we can overcome the country's economic problems. However, this issue requires national determination.

He blamed past reliance on the oil revenue for the country's economic weakness and said: Oil was the main source of income for the country in the past, and as a result any fluctuation in oil prices affected the country's economic performance.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dorri-Najafabadi added: Our oil resources have not been utilized properly. Instead of exporting refined oil by-products, we have been exporting crude oil. On the other hand, oil prices are usually determined by the importing countries, which sometimes tax it at six times its imported price.

He pointed out: Industrial countries export luxury goods and processed materials back to the oil producing countries. The value of their export is about 10 times the value of the crude oil they purchase.

He said: The only way of eliminating our dependency on oil income is to increase non-oil exports. If we could earn about 10 billion dollars from our non-oil exports annually, we would definitely overcome all our economic problems by the end of the year 1380 [ends 20 March 2002]. [passage omitted]

He said: The most important factor for achieving success in the export of non-oil goods is to adopt a unified strategy, particularly by the economic organs. Unfortunately, the lack of a unified economic-financial strategy means there is no coordination between the finance, commerce, and industries ministries and the Central Bank.

He added: Our consumer society does not have any surplus products. It seems that we wish to consume everything we produce as well as import from other countries of the world. This is not compatible with the policy of promoting exports. We must, therefore, economize and export the surplus.

Speaking about administrative problems facing exporters, he said: In general, all the executive establishments of the state including the customs department, the ports and shipping organization, and the country's jetties and roads, and even the people, are geared up for imports, and no one shows any desire to export.

On the current low level of exports, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dorri-Najafabadi said: One of the most important reasons is the supplement to the state penal code, recommended by the Council for Discerning What is Best and the Market Regulations Headquarters, in order to control the highly fluctuating foreign exchange rate. The fixed exchange rate discourages exporters.

He added: I see no solution to the country's economic problem, except through adopting a strategy to promote non-oil exports side by side with job creation, technological development, investment, growth of GDP, and provision of social welfare.

He proposed: "In order to avoid adopting wrong economic decisions, an agency similar to the Supreme National Security Council should be set up to make the final decisions on state economic issues."

On the various ideas proposed to implement social justice, he said: Those who believe the country is in need of economic development will definitely support social justice. We all respect the Constitution and are committed to Islam and its principle of social justice. However, we favor the kind of progress which will protect our values, our revolution, Islam, and the state.

He added: In our Islamic society progress means producing our own food and defense equipment. We must utilize our country's resources in the best possible manner and must compete in the international market.

In conclusion, he reiterated the need for the growth of GDP and the per capita income of the citizens in order to secure the country's future.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Majles Appoints Deputies To Supervise Committees, Councils

LD0907141196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Majles named its chosen deputies for the supervision of councils, headquarters, and committees as stipulated in the law of the second [five-year] development plan and in the notes of the budget bill for the year 1375 [beginning 20 March 1996].

According to the votes cast, Deputies Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi and Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht were chosen as supervisors at meetings of the Council for Money and Credit.

Seyyed Abbas Paknezhad and Hasan Sobhani were chosen as supervisors at meetings of the Council for Consumption Models.

Esmail Jabbarzadeh and Mohammad Reza Majidi were chosen as supervisors at meetings of the Supreme Administrative Council.

Ja'fargholi Raheb and Ebrahim Azizi were chosen as supervisors at meetings of the Supreme Agricultural Council.

'Ali Qanbari and Mohsen Yanyavi were chosen to take part in the meetings of the committee for the approval of policies and guidelines for the purchase and regulation of the foreign exchange market and for the establishment of the necessary adjustments [as heard].

Jasem Jadari, Mostafa Matulzadeh, Iraj Sefati-Dezfuli, Mohammad Ra'uf Qa'eri, and Ahmad Naseri were chosen to supervise implementation of the articles of Note 30 of the budget bill for the year 1375 regarding ways of spending the credit allocated for the country's war-stricken regions.

Hemat Beygmoradi, Abdollah Ka'bi, Ahmad Naseri, Abdolzahra Harizadi, and Mostafa Matulzadeh were chosen to take part in the meetings of the headquarters for the reconstruction of the province and the center [as heard]. [passage omitted]

Iran: Official Details Potential of New Railroad

NC0907204896 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 29 Jun 96 p 3

[Interview with Roshdi, director general of Khorasan railroads department, by unidentified correspondent in Mashhad; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] Mr. Roshdi, while thanking you, we would like to ask our first question. Could you please tell us when a regular train schedule for the transport of passengers from Mashhad to Ashgabat and all other capitals and cities in the region will be compiled and announced?

[Roshdi] The route for the departure of trains has so far been announced as Mashhad to Ashgabat, and a regular schedule will be announced after the final session between the representatives of two countries.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] When will the transport of cargo from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Central Asia begin via the Silk railroad?

[Roshdi] The Iranian railroad department sent a fax [as published] message last week to Turkmenistan announcing its readiness to receive cargo trains and we are waiting to receive these trains at the border. [passage omitted]

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] Will there be passenger tours as well on the Silk railroad to Central Asia and the PRC?

[Roshdi] It is obvious that following the exchange of trains between the two countries, certain decisions will be made about this program. Of course we are in favor of the program, as you know; one of the objectives of the inauguration of the Silk railroad was to attract attention for the development of the tourism industry. We hope this will materialize in the near future.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] In practice, which countries have informed Iran of their willingness to send cargo and passengers by means of this railroad?

[Roshdi] So far, numerous proposals have been received by the railroad department of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the transport of transit cargo from the traders in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and also Turkmenistan, which we will certainly follow up after the exchange of trains between Iran and Turkmenistan. All other countries will be able to benefit from this route. [passage omitted]

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] What is the annual volume of goods that has been envisaged for transport via the Silk railroad? Will this increase? What factors will be effective in increasing this volume?

[Roshdi] In current circumstances, we have envisioned 2 million tons of cargo to be exchanged annually. However, once the installations at the Sarakhs train station are completed, such as the cranes, the required rail tracks, and the cargo loading facilities, this volume will increase accordingly.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] What is the anticipated capacity for passengers who will be able to go back and forth on the Silk railroad in a year?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Roshdi] With the completion of the installations at the Sarakhs train station, it is expected that the number of passengers will exceed 500,000 annually.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] What is the level of passenger and cargo transit traffic via the Silk railroad that is expected to cross our soil?

[Roshdi] It has been predicted that an increasing level of transiting passengers and cargo will pass via the Silk railroad after the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan project is completed. It will reach 8 million tons of cargo and 3 million passengers annually. This would constitute appropriate growth compared to the current level.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] What is your prediction regarding the effect of this railroad on the quantity of imports and exports of Khorasan province to the countries of Central Asia and the Far East?

[Roshdi] In my opinion, with the activating of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, the exchange of goods and passengers will be massive and will attract many tourists. Peripherally, the province's imports and exports will rise immensely and we hope to see desirable growth in this area.

[EQTESAD-E KHORASAN] We thank you for sparing your time for this interview.

Iran: Pros, Cons of Central Asian Rail Noted

NC0807091896 Mashhad EQTESAD-E KHORASAN ECONOMIC WEEKLY in Persian 15 Jun 96 pp 5, 10

[Article by Dr. Bahram Amir-Ahmadi: "The Central Asian Railway and Its Geopolitical Prospects"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The inauguration of the 700-km Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas Railway by the Iranian president in late 1373 [year ending 20 March 1994] was a turning point for rail transport in the region. [passage omitted]

Although the linking of the Central Asian railway with the warm water of the Persian Gulf was considered to represent military strategy in the past century and during the era of the Soviet Union, it is a reality now that geopolitical issues have been replaced by geo-economic issues. Iran's investment in the construction of the important transit network linking Central Asia, Russia, and China with the Persian Gulf is proof of Iran's geopolitical importance in regional relations. [passage omitted]

The following are the special features the Central Asian Railway offers after linking with the Tajan-Sarakhs-Mashhad Railway:

1. The possibility of a railway link between Persian Gulf borders and Central Asia and, via Central Asia, with the eastern Pacific, as well as linking Russia and Siberia with it.

2. The possibility of a railway link from Iran to China and Vietnam. (In 1996 Vietnam resumed its railway link with China after 17 years.)

3. The possibility of a railway link throughout Russia—from Siberia to the Baltic coasts and to the Persian Gulf—and, ultimately, with members of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] (except Pakistan and Afghanistan).

4. The establishment of a railway link with the Caucasus Railway, the Black Sea, and Iran via the Caspian Sea by using rail car-carrier ships between Turkmenbashi Port in the east of the Caspian Sea to Baku Port in the west of the Caspian Sea. This rail car-carrier route consists of four huge ships and has been operating since the late eighties between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

5. A railway link between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea ports—Turkmenbashi, Shochenko, Guriyev, Astarakhan, Mahach Qal'eh, Darband, and Baku. [names as published]

6. A direct link among all ECO members (except Afghanistan and Pakistan) via the railway to sea ports—the Persian Gulf's "warm water," and the "closed water" of the Caspian Sea.

The following are the negative aspects, the deterrents, and the security problems in front of the Central Asian Railway:

1. The Central Asian Railway passes through many republics. In some cases—as in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan—a link between two points is impossible without entering the territory of another republic.

2. Customs restrictions throughout such a complicated railway system can create problems.

3. The mountainous terrain in southeast Central Asia and the lack of access in some areas to the railway link, as well as the geographic and legal complications faced by the railway on the Fergana Valley route, constitute a problem.

4. The infrastructure of the railway is old and there is a lack of new investment for repair and maintenance of the railway after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. There is an absence of the necessary standards for maintenance inside CIS boundaries.

5. The Central Asian republics cannot use the railway for a direct and independent link with the south (Iran

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and the Persian Gulf). The plans for this railway were laid down when the Soviet Union was a vast country. Thus the Central Asian countries must regard this railway as one common network. During the era of the Soviet Union this network was based on a centralized plan within the framework of two economic regions—Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Today this network cannot be used without a pact for economic cooperation, even though Kazakhstan can establish a direct link with Russia and China and Turkmenistan can establish a direct link with Iran and the Persian Gulf.

6. The rail tracks of the Central Asian Railway link with Iran are not all of a standard size so further coordination for cooperation will be needed.

7. Central Asia's link via the railway faces many natural obstacles, among them desert, the steppes, and mountainous regions—all of which call for tight security measures for the transit of goods and passengers. The countries situated on the route of the railway must grant the insurance companies, merchants, and customers sufficient security guarantees.

8. Any conflict or war among these countries and any ethnic and border disputes can harm this network. This is why, following the outbreak of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the railway network has not been used since 1988 and has inflicted irreparable damage to the regional transport network.

Proposals:

1. In view of the large volume of traffic of goods and passengers on the Mashhad railway route linking the other parts of Iran and a further increase in goods and passengers on the Central Asia Railway, the railway's current capacity will be unable to meet daily increasing demands. Changing the railway to a double-track system and electrifying the system appears to be necessary. This calls for huge investment and long-term planning.

Another alternative to meeting the railway's rising needs can be chosen. This alternative is the Sarakhs-Chabahar Railway along Iran's eastern border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. In addition to linking Central Asia with the Sea of Oman, this eastern railway line will also allow a direct link to be established with the Pakistani and Indian railways. If this link is established, the Chabahar free port can become the largest commercial port in Central Asia and Iran in the Sea of Oman. If the eastern Iranian railway from Sarakhs to Chabahar is established, Iran's central government can extend its powers to the country's eastern border—from where goods and passengers are smuggled in and out of the country—and the possibility will open up for developing this underdeveloped region. This cross-country line can reduce the immense traffic we will have to handle on the Sarakhs-Bandar-e 'Abbas line and also create the possibility of using this line for our domestic needs.

To establish this railway, we can seek joint investments by Central Asia countries or from global monetary organizations, such as the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, ECO, and other international institutions, or from countries like Japan, and from the Islamic Bank. In this case, to guarantee their investments, the countries involved will strive to maintain the network and will try to boost its output to increase their own benefits. Thus, Iran will also benefit from the impact of such investments.

Another proposal is that work on the Kerman-Zahedan Railway, which will offer a direct link between the Indian Subcontinent Railway and Central Asian Railway via the Sarakhs-Bandar-e 'Abbas railway, will be speeded up.

Once the route becomes operational, Iran will be directly linked with the Indian subcontinent, something Iran has been deprived of for years because of strategic-military reasons.

Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses OIC Communications Ministers Meeting

LD1007122996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The third meeting of post and communications ministers of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] began in Tehran today with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his address to the session of ministers representing 52 OIC states, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Islamic countries enjoy vast energy resources, as well as divine Islamic and Koranic sources of inspiration, and they cover a massive geographical expanse; these are factors which are sufficient for forming a major international power and a modern world civilization.

The president added: The leaders and statesmen of Islamic countries value this historic move — within the OIC framework — toward strengthening technological and scientific cooperation in the Islamic world. They are, moreover, prepared to take greater strides toward this end.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that, in the present age of communications, the expansion of cooperation in the post and telecommunications fields is one of the priorities of the Islamic world. He added: Through training, as well as the exchange of information and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

technical know-how, Islamic states — aided by the Islamic Development Bank — should be able to make better use of their existing potentials.

The president then stressed the importance of establishing a joint center for implementing post and telecommunications projects, so as to end the monopoly of major powers over this field. He said: The establishment of such a strong center will not only help exchange technical know-how and create indigenous experts and specialists, but can also change the balance of things to the advantage of Islamic states by halting the flow of the Islamic world's wealth into the coffers of monopolistic international corporations.

The president added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an advanced and successful country in the area of major post and telecommunications projects, is ready to provide extensive assistance to other fraternal Islamic countries.

The president underlined the significance of Iran's participation in an international communications network involving a fiber optic link between Frankfurt and Shanghai. He said this participation is a good example of Iran's capabilities in telecommunications industries. He added: Iran is ready to enjoy good and sincere cooperation with Islamic countries to help then with the implementation of modern telecommunications projects, such as fiber optic technology. In the framework of this cooperation, Iran will never act in a monopolistic manner, unlike the world's domineering powers. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the huge impact of mass media on international political developments. He stressed the importance of Muslims' vigilance and solidarity so as to facilitate rapid growth in the areas of manufacturing satellites and establishing a joint space agency in order to defend the Islamic world's cultural and geographical identity.

He expressed the hope that the third meeting of the OIC's post and communications ministers will follow up the decisions adopted at the earlier sessions so as to prepare the ground for strengthening extensive cooperation in all economic, political, and cultural areas. [passage omitted]

Iran: International Telecommunications Channels To Double by 1999

LD1007110496 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — Iran's international telecommunications channels will double by the end of the second 5-year development plan (1995-1999), said an official at Iran's telecommunications company.

Deputy for planning and expansion affairs of the company, Reza Rashidi added that presently Iran has about 3,500 international telecommunications channels.

All stages of designing, installation, operation and maintenance of the telecommunication systems are carried out by the Iranian experts, he said.

According to the plan, by 1999 more than 10 million applicants will have their own telephones, he said, adding at present there are about 5.3 million telephones lines in the country.

More on company's activities in post-revolution period, he said that before 1979 only 312 villages had access to communication systems, whereas now the number has reached 12,000.

On the letter of understanding signed between Iran and Azerbaijan on construction of Astara-Baku fiber obtic network, he said about 2,200 km of the silk road fiber optic project passes through Iran. Presently, Iranian experts are carrying out various stages of the project including installation, manufacturing and designing.

The 22,000-km silk road fiber optic project connects Shanghai in China to Frankfurt in Germany.

On foreign contracts of the company, he said construction of the Turkmenistan fiber optic linkage is one of the major projects of the company. Furthermore, the company is involved in telecommunications projects in Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait and Libya.

Iran: Daily Says OIC States Can Form Economic Bloc

LD1007110696 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 10 (IRNA) — Commenting on the third meeting of the telecommunications ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), an English daily Wednesday [10 July] said that having numerous factors in common, the OIC states can form an economic bloc to take care of their own interests.

"TEHRAN TIMES" further stressed a crucial role played by communications in the dissemination of prompt and accurate information among the OIC members.

"The 52 member states of the OIC have less than 40 million telephone lines at their disposal, while Germany alone has nearly 50 million telephone lines, let alone the United States with about 150 million lines in service."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In order to get closer the OIC member states should boost their communications systems, set up regional and Islamic data networks and launch joint ventures in this field, be it training, sharing experiences, or exchange of specialists, the editorial concluded.

Iran: Commentary Views Central Bank's Performance

NC0907081196 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 11 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed economic commentary: "In the Margin of the Report and Research on the Central Bank's Performance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report and research on the performance of the Central Bank of Iran [CBI] between the years 1368 to 1373 [1989-1994] was published recently.

The report notes several points on the performance of the bank. Such is the importance of the issue and its impact on the national economy, as well as on monetary and foreign exchange issues, a few comments must be made.

1. Basically speaking, the CBI's duty is to regulate monetary and financial relations, to preserve the value of the national currency by controlling credit, and to maintain a balance in foreign exchange and foreign commercial relations as far as income and expenditure are concerned. The CBI cannot state that "pressure by state institutions has led foreign debts to exceed the budget bill and the Five-Year Plan" (!)

2. It is not the CBI's responsibility to give explanations to economic officials or the government. Part of the CBI's report said: "Things should not go so far as to discredit the country's banks." Then there was: "The problem the executive institutions face is management, lack of programming, and expecting too much. [no end quotes as published] But such comments downplay the vital responsibility of the CBI in preserving the value of the national currency and in creating a balance in foreign trade and also downplay the management power of the bank.

3. The former CBI governor said in an interview that "every country is refraining from extending long-term commercial credits to Iran; therefore, short-term credits are sought. In short, the three important elements of 'legal, political, and income' restrictions have made the country's banking system delay the payment of its bills."

If these comments are put next to those of the deputy chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, who said: "The accumulation of foreign debts and the problems faced in transactions by private and state companies abroad have been without the knowledge of the CBI," it is not clear how these two conflicting comments should be assessed.

4. The country's foreign exchange income and expenditure record speaks of an increase in debts. On the basis of the law 15 percent should be deducted from the country's foreign exchange debts annually. The figures published in the report on the CBI's performance show that up to end 1368 the country's foreign commitments were $19.2 billion. The figure was $28.5 billion, $33.5 billion, $37.1 billion, $29.1 billion, and $43 billion in the years 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, and 1373 respectively. The CBI claims that in 1374 this debt was drastically reduced.

Such a process, which can only be corrected by decreasing imports and increasing production, shows that we should adopt a more serious approach to regulating our foreign debts. We should not be afraid of pressure by one government institution or another, but should grant priority to the interests of the system, the people, and the revolution over anything else—even "rapid economic growth and development!"

5. Finally, if increased supervision in the banks by committed and skilled inspectors will not increase the Accounts Department's work concerning banks nor should the money that ought to be spent on development and progress go toward "buying cars, decorating, extending loans to the management of state companies, buying unessential buildings, building beaches, and meeting the expenses of sports teams." (Footnote: Comments by the head of the country's Accounts Department cited in RESALAT 25 May 1996.) A lack of monetary discipline and instability in financial policies are the other conclusions drawn from the report on the CBI's performance. But it is hoped that by seriously observing the wise directives of the esteemed leader in his Nowruz [Iranian New Year marked on 21 March] messages of 1374 and 1375, these problems will be solved.

Iran: Television Programs Criticized

96LH0185A Tehran KAR VA KARGAR in Persian 2 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Voice and Vision Organization has a very heavy mission, in view of the huge audience and this media's unrivaled domination of delivering information throughout the country. By presenting good and varied programs, this organization could take effective steps to improve Islamic Iran's cultural structure. This mission of the voice and Vision Organization is very heavy. Our late imam also mentioned this in his political divine will, and the exalted leader of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

revolution has explained and defined this great media's framework for activity over and over again.

What is discussed in the remarks by the exalted leader of the revolution and our dear imam's will is the Voice and Vision's constructive role in making the nation's culture substantial and in bringing up the youth, adolescents, and children in this land through educational programming to raise the level of the general culture, by giving shape to the behavior and relations of people toward one another through programming in art and social affairs, and by establishing the basis of economic relations between the policy making apparatus and the people through correct information delivery. These are the special tasks of a logical and reasonable radio and television system. If it is otherwise, those operating that system must be told plainly that they are making a mistake. Gentlemen, the wise path leads elsewhere! It demands more logical measures! Unfortunately, we must tell our Voice and Vision Organization: you are making a mistake!

We all saw the New Year's television programming, and the long New Year's holidays (and of course the excessive length of these holidays is a subject for a separate discussion) gave us all the opportunity, not just once and not just at night, but again the next morning, to review the programming and become better and further acquainted with its quantity and quality. What did we see? Was it quantity or quality?

Apart from the good Iranian films and tolerable foreign films, what did the television serials and the satirical programming have to present? Is there no system of quality control in our television? Is every producer and director free to make a film or a serial in any way he wishes? Then for what are the Voice and Vision's heavy expenditures used? Is there no framework or structure for the Islamic Republic's television programming? If there is, why are there malfunctions evident in the programming? If there is no framework, why not? This media sometimes has as many as 40 million viewers for some of its programs. If it is not concerned about the Public Treasury funds, it should at least consider the people's time so no one spends time in front of the television without a goal. Did the Voice and Vision officials themselves see the New Year's programming so they could better plan programming for the next year?

In all the vulgar satire, serials with no content, and other programs, were none of these able to meet the expectations of our people during the days of the New Year's celebrations?

Gentlemen!

Some basic thinking must be done about this low quality of programming. For how long and to what extent must quality be sacrificed for quantity? When a medium spends this much money on special programming, what everyone expects is that at least there should be a better percentage of ordinary programming through the year. However, it has not been this way, and we call this "irresponsibility." Let there be a basic review of the Voice and Vision's programming structure.

God willing.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Indian Foreign Minister Interviewed on Possible Dialogue

BK1007082096 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jul 96 pp 1, 5

["Excerpts" of an interview with Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral by S. Venkat Narayan in New Delhi on 5 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Narayan] What are the chances of your Pakistani counterpart and you being present to kick off the foreign secretary-level dialogue when it resumes next?

[Gujral] In principle, I welcome it. Meeting my colleagues in our neighborhood is always a privilege. I'd welcome an opportunity to meet the Pakistan foreign minister. We are waiting for a reply from Ms Benazir Bhutto to our prime minister's letter. Bilaterals apart, foreign ministers of member countries of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) have to get together some time this year. India being the SAARC chairman this year, I'm trying to work out the dates for such a meeting.

[Narayan] New Delhi has to host the next round of foreign secretary-level talks because the last round took place in Islamabad in January 1994.

[Gujral] I'd be delighted to invite the Pakistan foreign minister to kick off the dialogue. But you're anticipating events too much in advance? We have not come to that stage just yet. When we've to cross that bridge, I assure you we'll do everything in a spirit of friendship.

[Narayan] You have said you are ready to discuss all the bilateral issues with Pakistan, including Kashmir. What aspects of the Kashmir question are you prepared to discuss with Pakistan?

[Gujral] I would not like to react to this till we hear from Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. If I start a discussion on this subject, it may harm the prospects

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of clearing the air. I'm keen that the environment must remain cordial.

[Narayan] The papers Pakistan submitted in early 1994 suggest how to conduct a plebiscite in Kashmir. Is India ready to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir?

[Gujral] I'm not discussing these issues at all until we hear from Ms Bhutto.

[Narayan] You have talked about using the China model to improve India's relations with Pakistan. This means: "Put Kashmir on the back-burner and let's talk about everything else." But Pakistan says: "Let's discuss Kashmir first, the rest can follow." How do you propose to marry these diametrically opposite stances?

[Gujral] All your questions, my dear friend, take me in the same direction in which I don't want to go? And my direction is very simple: We're waiting for a reply to our prime minister's letter. We'll spell out what we have in mind only after that.

[Narayan] You are taking certain unilateral steps to give a boost to Indo-Pak ties. But businessmen on both sides want India to open the Wagha border for trade.

[Gujral] If it is suggested that Wagah should be opened, I will consider it positively.

[Narayan] Pakistan closed down its consulate general in Mumbai [Bombay] and asked India to shut down its consulate in Karachi. Reopening them both is essential to improve people-to-people contacts and trade relations between the two neighbors. Does this figure in your scheme of things?

[Gujral] As a first step towards this, I've already suggested that both countries should hold camp off offices in Karachi and Mumbai to make the issuance of visas more expeditious. We've put in our request (to hold a camp office in Karachi), and are waiting for a reply.

[Narayan] Pakistan has been requesting India for decades to hand over the Jinnah House in Mumbai for use by its consulate general. Will you consider obliging it as a gesture of goodwill?

[Gujral] I'm not saying anything till we hear from Ms Bhutto.

[Narayan] You had a good meeting with Ms Benazir Bhutto when you visited Pakistan last as a private citizen. Besides, you have a large number of friends there. Do you have any plan to visit that country soon to use your personal contact and influence to improve bilateral relations?

[Gujral] I visited Pakistan a few times as a private citizen. The warmth of hospitality, was deeply touching. I'm grateful to her excellency the prime minister that, when I was there last, she found time to meet me despite her preoccupations. I could say the same thing about the generosity of his excellency the President (Farooq Ahmed Leghari), and also Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the Opposition. They all gave me a patient hearing. If I were a private citizen today, I'd catch the next plane and go to Pakistan again. It's a little different now, unfortunately, there are some problems to sort out. I repeat: Let's just wait.

[Narayan] As the foreign minister of the current SAARC chairman, you can visit Pakistan along with other member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka).

[Gujral] Yes, we're working out the details, when I start traveling in the region in that capacity, I can't possibly overlook Pakistan.

[Narayan] Why do you think some Pakistani leaders, bureaucrats and military establishment entertain reservations when it comes to improving relations with India, at a time when everybody is making friends with everybody else?

[Gujral] I would rather not comment on the past. I want to open a new chapter. So, whatever role some segments of society in Pakistan and India may have played in the past, I would not want to become a prisoner of the past, I look to the future with hope and optimism. Therefore I will not like to comment on the historical role of anybody else on either side.

[Narayan] How confident are you of your desire for good neighborly relations being reciprocated positively by Pakistan?

[Gujral] By optimism.

[Narayan] What do you propose to do to change the mindset of those Pakistanis who are not enthusiastic about establishing good neighborly relations with India?

[Gujral] I do not comment on someone else having reservations. But my own experience in Pakistan has been that there is a strong urge among the people for friendship with India, as is the case with the people here. Whenever Pakistanis come here or Indians go there, one only has to experience the hospitality that marks such encounters on both sides to realize how warm the relations are between our two peoples. This is something which we must keep on.

[Narayan] What do you have in hand when you say your government is ready to grant maximum autonomy to Kashmir? Is it another way of saying what Narasimha Rao declared in parliament when he was the prime minister, namely: anything short of "Azadi" (Independent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kashmir). What does this amount to on the ground for the people of J&K [Jammu and Kashmir].

[Gujral] This is a matter between the government of India and the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). We're now moving towards elections in that state. Once they're over, the elected representatives of the state will sit within the government here and discuss what they want. Discussions between the center and the state become genuine if the credentials of those involved in them are well established.

[Narayan] What exactly do you mean when you say India will keep open its nuclear options?

[Gujral] It means we have a sovereign right to look after our security. When we were discussing the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty), we were looking at it in terms of India's security as well. We continue to believe that, if the world can somehow be free of nuclear weapons every country including India will be more secure. But so long as nuclear weapons are around, it'll be wrong for anyone to expect that we should sign the CTBT in its present form and thus bind ourselves with those who have the weapons.

[Narayan] India has not exploded a bomb since May 1974, whereas many nuclear powers keep testing to acquire state-of-the-art knowledge about nuclear weaponry. When India is practicing self-imposed nuclear "Brahmacharya" [celibacy] for so long, is it fair to expect the scientists to produce nuclear weapons at short notice as and when the politicians decide that you need bombs to protect the country?

[Gujral] I live in the hope that, in the world as a whole and in our region in particular, nuclear weapons will never be used. I don't want to live to see the day when bombs are used. I don't want to see war in our region ever. I want to see an era of peace ushered in. Therefore, thinking in terms of nuclear weapons all the time is not my way of looking. Our government is committed to build an era of peace and not for the perpetration of war.

[Narayan] If seeking nuclear parity with China is the objective India needs to spend billions of dollars year on updating its nuclear technology. But India doesn't have that kind of money to burn. So, why not declare yourself a nuclear weapons state and sign the CTBT instead of getting blamed for blocking the CTBT?

[Gujral] We're not blocking the CTBT. We're only making our own position clear. If other friends the world over want to go and sign the CTBT, we've no objection, absolutely none. That's why we have not walked out of the Geneva talks on the CTBT. All that we've said is that, as a sovereign country, we have a right to decide for ourselves whether or not we should sign a particular document. Similarly, other countries are at liberty to sign whatever they wish. As for nuclear parity with China, I don't think it's been a part of Indian security doctrine that we need to have parity with China in nuclear weapons. Of course, we are competing with China in trade, industrial growth and development. That's where our competition is. We don't want to compete with China or any other country in acquiring more lethal weapons or any weapons at all.

[Narayan] What if China or Pakistan were to drop a bomb over New Delhi tomorrow? How will you defend yourself. The scientists can't possibly put together a nuclear bomb overnight?

[Gujral] Security policies are not decided on the basis of abstract presumptions. We're not reading science fiction, we're dealing with realities. Our security guardians have their own threat perceptions, which do not make them believe that a nuclear weapon is needed at this stage for India's security.

[Narayan] What are the long-term implications of our refusal to play ball with the rest of the world on the CTBT?

[Gujral] Of course we're playing ball. It's the nuclear five who are not playing ball with anybody else. The difficulty is that the CTBT is a draft created by these five, not the whole world. They do not want to listen to us. They do not want to reduce their weapons, those dangerous heaps that threaten the world. They are not even willing to promise that, one day, there will be a world that's free of nuclear weapons.

[Narayan] The friendship treaty with Bangladesh is due for renewal in eight months from now. Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has branded it as a treaty of slavery. New Prime Minister Hasina Wajed too feels it has outlived its utility. Is India ready to scrap the treaty unilaterally because nobody seems to want it in Bangladesh?

[Gujral] When two countries sign an historic document it is not scrapped in response to public speeches particularly when they are made with an eye on elections. A new government has come into office. We've welcomed it. The prime minister has sent a special envoy to Dhaka to convey our warm felicitations to her excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed and her esteemed colleagues. We're ready to discuss whatever our Bangladeshi friends want to discuss, and that includes the treaty too.

[Narayan] India has been wanting Bangladesh to open up the Chittagong ports to boost bilateral trade as well as to transport goods to the northeastern states. This

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

can also help Bangladesh to reduce the adverse trade balance it now has with India. Will you push for this?

[Gujral] We will push for nothing because pushing is a contra word to friendship. We'll only find those areas of cooperation that suit our neighbor's convenience and national interest.

[Narayan] What idea do you have to sort out the water-sharing dispute with Bangladesh?

[Gujral] The ideas will emerge in our discussions when we sit down and talk about our problems. We'll try to sort them in a friendly manner.

[Narayan] What do you propose to do about the large number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who have been flocking to our cities in search of jobs?

[Gujral] This is one of the issues that can come up for discussions when our countries begin talks.

[Narayan] Nepal too wants certain clauses of the 1950 treaty with India to be amended. What are your views on this question?

[Gujral] I don't think that they've told us anything about this officially, but if they want to discuss this, they're welcome. Overall, let me say this: Generally, we'll bar discussions on no issue at all. Our neighbors are welcome to discuss any issue they wish to raise. We have an open mind on everything, and we'll try to accommodate them to the extent possible. But they too must understand and appreciate our sensibilities. Then we can always work out something that's mutually acceptable.

[Narayan] You have talked about including Myanmar [Burma] and Afghanistan in SAARC. Have you initiated any consultations with others members in this regard?

[Gujral] Not yet, because I haven't met them yet. These are ideas which I've expressed even before I joined this government. We could discuss them at an appropriate forum at an appropriate time.

[Narayan] The question of including Afghanistan was raised by India at the Kathmandu summit in 1987. But Pakistan was opposed to the idea, at that time. Is it still opposed?

[Gujral] SAARC works by consensus. So, whatever new ideas come up will be implemented only when all of us in SAARC agree.

[Narayan]Myanmar appears keen on joining ASEAN rather than SAARC. Has anyone sounded Myanmar about joining SAARC?

[Gujral] Myanmar is a sovereign country and is free to decide who it wishes to join. It will be feasible only if it wishes to join SAARC and all of us want it to join.

[Narayan] Myanmar is possibly the only country in the world, where a democratic order is blocked up for years and its military dictators continue to defy the world opinion. Yet, India has chosen to say nothing. And you want them to join SAARC. How do you justify India's silence on the military refusing to hand over power to Aung San Suu Kyi?

[Gujral] Our wanting Myanmar to join SAARC and what is happening inside the country are two separate issues. Let's not mix them up. As a country India has always welcomed the democratic aspirations of people every where. But as a government, we do not export or import democracy. Ultimately, it is for the people of Myanmar to decide what they want. We'll not interfere in their internal affairs.

[Narayan] So, you propose to do nothing about the continuous harassment of Aung San Suu Kyi by the military dictators?

[Gujral] The issue is not whether we propose to do something or nothing. The issue is of a basic principle, which is enshrined in the "Panchsheel" (five principles of peaceful co-existence). Namely, not interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. Ultimately, it's the people who have to establish democracy in their respective countries, as has been the case the world over. All those who tried to rely on importing or exporting democracy, socialism or whatever have found that such an exercise is counter-productive in the long run.

[Narayan] It's been eight years since India and China have set up the joint working group to settle the long-standing border dispute. Are they nearer to a mutually acceptable solution? The next meeting of the group is due later in the year. Is it likely to produce any result this time?

[Gujral] The group is meeting again soon. I must say to its credit that the situation has been slowly improving. The army presence has thinned down on either side of the Sino-Indian border. There's no eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation any longer. This by itself is a contribution. Such involved issues do take time to settle. With patience both of us are working. One day by God's grace, we'll-be able to resolve the issue.

[Narayan] But, there are still a large number of troops posted out there. When is a further reduction likely?

[Gujral] That's what the joint working group should discuss at its next meeting. I leave to the experts in the groups to work it out.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Narayan] With Boris Yeltsin back in the Kremlin with an impressive majority how do you look at the future of Indo-Russian relations?

[Gujral] It's been a basic doctrine of India's foreign policy that no matter who comes to power here or in Moscow, our relations are abiding. Mr. Yeltsin is back in the Kremlin. He is aware of the policies. So, we may move a few steps further in consolidating our friendship. I'm going to Jakarta for the July 21 meeting of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) to participate in its deliberations as full-dialogue partner. I've just received a message from my friend Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian foreign minister, that both of us should get together there.

[Narayan] Why is the process to boost our relations with the Central Asian Republics so painfully slow?

[Gujral] Such adjectives are not called for. Our ties with the region are neither painful nor slow. Our relationship is moving ahead with a great deal of vigor. Vice-President Kr Narayanan is visiting some of these countries and Mongolia in September. We are expecting the vice premier and foreign minister of Turkmenistan here this month. During the last few years several VIP visits have taken place between India and Central Asia. Our trade is improving. Now with the completion of the railway line to Turkmenistan through Iran the prospects of further improvement are bright.

[Narayan] If the Central Asian Republics too are to be included in SAARC, it will change the basic character of the organization. And the name SAARC will have to be changed. But are those republics interested in joining SAARC in the first place?

[Gujral] At this stage. I only floated the idea. We have not worked on the nitty gritty of it. It may be a dream today and become a reality some day. Look at the size of such a large entity and its potential. It will benefit everybody in the region. Look at ASEAN, they are extending themselves. Even India is now a full dialogue partner with them. These are ideas of the future, and we must look at them with a great deal of optimism.

[Narayan] How do you look at India's relations with the Gulf region?

[Gujral] They are good with the region as a whole and with individual countries in the area in terms of trade and the number of Indians working there. We have frequent joint commission meetings with the Gulf states. Some are due soon. Our relations with the Middle East are progressing very, well.

[Narayan] Your meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad at the height of the war in the Gulf in 1990 had become a huge controversy. Looking back, what do you feel about it? Were you ill-advised, or do you stand by what you did?

[Gujral] What was India's stake at that time? Two hundred thousand of our people were stuck in Kuwait and Iraq. Imagine what would have happened if we had not brought them home well in time and war had begun. What if there were a few Indian casualties in the war either in Kuwait or Iraq? Would the people of India have forgiven us? The prime duty of any foreign minister is protecting his country's national interests. We were able to get all our people home in safety in the biggest evacuation of civilians in peace time in history. You must remember this: We were not only able to get our people out, we were never out of step with the UN resolutions. I recall that, when I was quitting my office in 1990, the then US Secretary of State James Baker wrote a personal letter to me appreciating my policies in the Gulf. We never bypassed the UN sanctions. At the same time, we were able to get our people home safe. That's tribute to Indian diplomacy.

[Narayan] So, you acted in India's national interest and do not regret what you did, right?

[Gujral] Where's the question of regretting anything when it comes to saving the lives of your own people? I recall with a great deal of satisfaction that both houses of the Indian parliament had given me a standing ovation after I came back from the visit. As you know, that doesn't happen all that often.

Pakistan: Defense Committee Cabinet Discusses Kashmir, India

BK1107063896 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Jul 96 pp 1, 11

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Pakistan has shown its willingness for the secretary-level talks with India if Kashmir issue was put on the agenda. The decision, according to official sources, was taken at the quarterly meeting of Defense Committee of Cabinet (DCC) held here Tuesday [9 July].

The top civil and military leadership supported the idea of engaging India in dialogue for peaceful settlement of core issues, including Kashmir. They added Islamabad will shortly propose tentative dates for such dialogue.

Presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the meeting was attended, among others, by foreign, defense and interior ministers, adviser to premier on finance, chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, services chiefs, and other high-ranking officials.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"The meeting discussed at length the internal and external matters relating to the security of the country," said official sources, adding that the top leadership also reviewed the security environment prevailing in the region.

The debate, said the sources, was mainly focused on "reviewing the security situation in the region" and in this context the proposal for talks came under discussion.

Pakistan had already proposed a dialogue to India, which New Delhi had responded to positively. "India has shown its readiness to talk on all subjects of concerns," said the source quoting officials from New Delhi.

The DCC meeting, according to insiders, also dilated on the border situation, including that of western borders and developments being taken place in Kabul. This part of the DCC meeting was also attended by Governor of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province]. "No decision has been taken to open Pak Mission in Kabul until Rabbani administration meets all demands which Islamabad has already conveyed to it," added the source. However, Pakistani will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations for bringing peace in the faction-ridden Afghanistan.

PM's adviser on finance VA Jafarey briefed the participants on the availability of funds required for the purchase of [word indistinct] including Mirage 2000-5, T-80UD surface ships etc. He said the funds for Ukrainian tanks have already been allocated, and its a matter of days before the final deal is struck.

Pakistan, said a source, will now look for other cheaper options like SU-27 plane instead of Mirage 2000-5. "Pakistan expects a new invitation from Moscow shortly for the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as Russians have again voted President Yeltsin to power," added the source.

The upgradation of Aeronautical Complex (PAC), Kamra, according to highly-placed sources, was also discussed in the meeting.

For some time, Petroleum Minister Anwar Saifullah attended the meeting and briefed the DCC on the oil and gas sector and new international projects to be undertaken by foreign investors in Pakistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.